

The Baptist Record

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BSU Convention:

Students observe 40th anniversary in state work

By Don McGregor

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union observed its 40th anniversary during its annual convention Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and heard testimonies delivered by students and inspirational speakers as to how Baptist students could impact the world with the gospel.

The students adopted a budget of \$82,000 for 1987 with the goal of sending 75 student summer missionaries into areas with needs across the United States and around the world.

During a reception on Saturday afternoon in observation of the 40 years of BSU in Mississippi, Lloyd Lunceford, associate director, noted that one of the appointees for 1987 will be the 1,000th student summer missionary appointed in the state during the 40 years and that the total offerings donated by the students during the time is approaching \$1 million.

Reception

The reception was funded by the Campus Baptist Young Women organization of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. Ashley McCaleb, consultant for Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women, and Patricia Simmons, consultant for GA and Mission Friends, were hostesses.

Entertainment for the reception was provided by the Sounds of Joy of Northeast Mississippi Junior College BSU and by Priority of Mississippi College BSU.

Henry Blackaby, director of missions for the Capilano Southern Baptist Association in Vancouver, British

Columbia, Canada, was the keynote speaker on Friday evening and delivered the concluding message on Sunday.

Blackaby told the students that they are co-laborers with Christ through his church. He told how he, a Canadian, had left a pastorate in the Los Angeles area to become pastor of a church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, that had only 10 members and had voted to disband. From that base he added Bible studies in Prince Albert, 90 miles away, and Regina, 150 miles away. From his original church, he noted in an earlier testimony time, there are now more than 40 churches functioning.

In his testimony time he pointed out that the church in Saskatoon had majored on witnessing to students in the university there. With them the ministry was built.

Theological college

He told how the church began a theological college in its facility because the members knew that God would call out workers.

"What is the process of God's calling us?" he asked. He said that nobody seeks after God and nobody understands. "If you begin to understand," he declared, "that is the work of God."

"If God chose to talk to you," he said, "he did it on purpose." He noted that God takes those who understand and will make themselves available and will make of them what he needs for them to be. "When God decides to do something, it is his moment; and

he chooses the ones he needs to stand among the people. He calls you to a relationship to himself. In his time he will show you where your assignment is."

"If you follow him," he said, "he will make you to become . . ."

"The world offers thousands of invitations," he noted, "but none equals the invitation from God."

Bill O'Brien, executive vice-president of the Foreign Mission Board, spoke to the students during a decision service on Saturday evening. He said that God created the world on purpose for a purpose and "called us into a co-managerial role with him."

"You and I were never meant to hibernate in this box (the church building)," he declared. "This is a clearing house to learn how to go out and function in our co-managerial role." The standard of excellence for any church he said, is the statement from Matt. 28, "As you are going about, disciple the nations."

"There is something wrong somewhere," he declared. "This world is broken." "Is our leader so stupid that he would hoard the gospel for so few and leave so many without it?"

"The good news" he said, "is that it can be fixed. It can be fixed by humble servants like you and me who are willing to follow our leader."

"The emphasis for missions is shifting away from the North American Continent. Student volunteer mission work is exploding as revival breaks out all over the globe. We can be a part of it or we can choose to live in a

(Continued on page 5)

FMB appoints couples with state connections



Samuel and Margaret Drummond



Mark and Karen Alexander

Two couples with Mississippi ties who were already in missionary families were themselves appointed missionaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in September.

Samuel and Margaret Drummond were appointed to El Salvador where he will teach in a seminary and the couple will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Drummond, a Memphis native, will receive the Ph.D. degree in December from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned the master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary.

He has been a painter in Brookhaven and has done Spanish language ministry work.

Born in Barcelona, Spain, Mrs. Drummond, the former Margaret Whitten, is the daughter of Charles and Indy Whitten, missionaries to Equatorial Guinea. She is a graduate

of Mississippi College, taught Spanish lab part time there, taught in Brookhaven, and was a summer missionary in California.

The Drummonds have three children: William Charles, born in 1977; Ruth Irene 1980; and Jessie Marie, 1982.

Mark and Karen Alexander were appointed to Argentina where he will be starting and developing churches and they will be involved in outreach ministries.

He is pastor of Sharon and Mount Tabor Churches in Buckingham County, Va. He is the son of Mark and Cecile Alexander who are also missionaries to Argentina. His mother is a native of Corinth and his father served the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as coordinator of the mission partnership project between Mississippi Baptists and Baptists in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

Committee named to study BJCPA

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A Mississippian was named to a seven-member "special fact-finding committee" to study the relationship of the Southern Baptist Convention to the nation's oldest religious liberty watchdog group was elected during the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee. James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, was named vice president of the committee.

The committee was named to study a motion made during the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta, which called for immediately severing the SBC's 50-year relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a group of nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada which has as its primary task representing the Baptist position on First Amendment issues.

The Southern Baptist Convention relates to the Baptist Joint Committee through the SBC Public Affairs Committee, whose 15 members also serve on the 42-member BJCPA board.

The 1986 motion, made by Dan Daniels of Mobile, Ala., called for

discontinuing the SBC's financial contribution to the Baptist Joint Committee "at the first fiscal opportunity." It also called for allocating "an equal amount" to "establish an exclusive Southern Baptist presence in Washington for the purpose of more truly reflecting our views."

Messengers voted 12,001 (55.6 percent) to 9,556 (44.3 percent) to refer the matter to the Executive Committee. Convention procedures specify that matters referred to the Executive Committee or other convention entities must be reported back at the subsequent annual meeting.

In the action approved during the Executive Committee meeting, the seven-member committee was instructed to make an interim report to the February 1987 meeting of the committee and a final report at a pre-SBC meeting, June 15, 1987. The action will be reported at the annual meeting, June 16-18 in St. Louis.

The committee is chaired by Gary Young, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz. Vice chairman is Yates, and secretary is Carolyn Miller, a homemaker from

(Continued on page 11)

The Mississippi Mission

Associational meetings across state feature endowment campaign plans

October is Association Awareness month for the Mississippi Mission unified endowment campaign. Plans for the \$40 million campaign will be discussed at the 72 annual associational meetings across the state.

During each meeting one of more than 865 trained campaign volunteers will use a slide presentation introducing the campaign story to the association. The 13-minute slide presentation explains the need of enlarging the endowments at Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College, William Carey College, and the Baptist Children's Village.

The campaign was approved by the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1984 as the result of an extensive study by its Education Commission. The study revealed endowment income accounted for only four percent of operating expenses today as compared to 23 percent in 1940.

The average endowment per student at Mississippi Baptist senior colleges is \$1,142 while the average at Southern Baptist Convention senior colleges is \$5,844. The Baptist Children's Village reported \$490,488 total endowment compared to the

average endowment of all other Southern Baptist Convention children's homes at \$4,035,987.

"Faculty and staff support has been exceptional," according to Harry Vickery, campaign general chairman. "This dedicated and committed group of these four institutions pledged \$662,664 — 70 percent over their \$370,000 challenge goal — bringing the total in The Family Gifts Division to \$3,982,486! To date over \$16 million has been pledged toward the \$40 million campaign objective," said Vickery.

Wake Forest and N.C. convention propose "fraternal" relationship

By Bill Boatwright

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — Wake Forest University and the North Carolina Baptist State Convention will sever formal ties and establish a new "fraternal" relationship, pending final approval by state convention messengers meeting Nov. 10-12 in Greensboro, N.C.

The proposed new relationship is the result of several years of study, debate and discussion on how best to relate the 152-year old university, founded by the Baptist State Convention, and the 1.1-million-member state convention.

The fraternal relationship would give the school control over electing all of its trustees, without requiring convention approval. The state convention would no longer provide any regular funding for the institution, although individual Baptist churches could send designated gifts for Wake Forest through the convention's business office.

In 1985, the Baptist State Convention, through a special provision in its unified budget, the Cooperative Program, sent \$500,000 to Wake Forest. The University's budget is about \$160

million.

The new relationship, if adopted, would be the result of scores of meetings over several years involving university-denomination affairs. In 1978, Wake Forest amended its charter to delete any references to the university as an agency of the convention, claiming North Carolina Baptists could not exercise any authority to elect or dismiss trustees. The state convention responded by withholding money from the university for several months until an agreement could be reached.

The next year, 1979, a new "covenant relationship" was formed between college and convention whereby churches had to specifically include Wake Forest in the church's gifts. About 450 of the state's 3,400 churches include Wake Forest in their Cooperative Program gifts. In turn, Wake Forest was allowed to have one-third of its trustees be non-Baptists and non-residents of North Carolina.

The 1979 covenant also gave Wake Forest sole power to nominate its trustees — both the Baptists and non-Baptists — but the state convention

still had final veto power over the process.

In November of 1985, a recommendation to the state convention would have allowed Wake Forest to elect the one-third non-Baptist trustees without the convention approval. The recommendation, needing a two-thirds majority, failed to pass by less than 30 votes.

A few weeks later, Wake Forest trustees declared their intent to elect all of their trustees, Baptists and non-Baptists, without convention approval.

Convention leaders, in a special called meeting of the General Board Executive Committee, expressed strong disapproval of the unilateral action of Wake Forest.

The most recent proposal — calling for a fraternal relationship minus any formal or legal ties between university and convention — will now go before the general board, meeting at the end of September, and then to the full state convention in November.

Boatwright is director of communications for Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Carl Savell accepts post as consultant for interfaith witness

ATLANTA (BP) — The Home Mission Board's executive committee appointed Carl Savell, director of the board's interfaith witness department, to a new position as national consultant for interfaith witness. Savell, a former pastor in Jackson, Miss., was to move from Atlanta to set up an office at his home in Jackson, October 1.

In other action the committee elected a new associate vice president, a new assistant director in the special mission ministries department, and appointed 35 missionaries during its September meeting.

Margrette Stevenson, director of the board's personnel division for the past four years, was promoted to a new position as associate vice president in the board's services section, effective Oct. 1. The new position was created by board action in August.

Stevenson, a native of Texas, has been a member of the board staff 11 years. Prior to election as director of the personnel division in 1982, she was director of the board's business services division and director of payroll and employee benefits.

The executive committee also elected Valerie J. Hardy, currently minister to youth at St. John's Baptist

Church, Charlotte, N.C., as assistant director of the agency's department of special mission ministries, effective Oct. 1.

Hardy will succeed Esther Burroughs, who has become a national consultant for the Home Mission Board on women in evangelism.

In other personnel matters, the board appointed 15 new missionaries, eight missionary associates, and 12 church planter apprentices; and approved financial aid to 79 mission pastors, language pastors, and other field personnel in cooperation with state Baptist conventions.

Day Star (Rankin) will burn note

Day Star Church, Rankin County, will hold a note burning service, Oct. 5. All the indebtedness on the church building and furnishings has been paid. The congregation held its first service in the new church five years ago. This service will be a part of homecoming day, which will feature dinner on the ground. Dale Holloway is pastor.



Handbells are memorial to Roberts

The Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen presented a special dedication program at Mississippi College during which they presented the Department of Music a set of handbells in memory of C. Truitt Roberts of Starkville. On hand for the occasion were, from the left, Mrs. C. Truitt Roberts of Starkville; Mrs. Pat Beam, one of Roberts' two daughters; Glenn Robinson, Laurel, a Mississippi College student who performed on the bells; and J. Garner Keel, president of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen.



Glenn Robinson of Laurel, a sophomore at Mississippi College, does a solo number on the handbells while the Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen listen. The Singing Churchmen were presented in concert and gave the college a set of handbells in memory of C. Truitt Roberts, a former member of the group. They will be used by the Music Department for instructional purposes and entertainment. Robinson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Perry G. Robinson. His father is minister of music at First Church, Ellisville, and is handbell specialist with the state Church Music Department.

MRLC to host lay/clergy meet at Beth Israel

The Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference (MRLC) will host a lay/clergy seminar, 9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Oct. 16 at Beth Israel Congregation, 5315 Old Canton Rd., Jackson, to explore "Children in Mississippi — Challenge to the Religious Community."

Keynote speakers include Nellie Hutchinson, director of the Governor's Commission on Children and Youth; and Andy Mullins, bureau director, External Affairs, State Department of Education. A special presentation on childhood sexual abuse will be presented by the Speak Out, Speak Up program at the Mississippi Children's Home Society and Family Service Association.

Addressing the question of who is responding, will be a panel presentation by Linda Raff, acting director of Catholic Charities; Dolphus Weary, executive director of Mendenhall Ministries; and Deborah Scout of Christian Family Services. Paul G. Jones, executive director and treasurer of the Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention, will present the concluding session, "The Challenge."

There will be no charge for the seminar. Lunch, prepared by the Sisterhood of Beth Israel will be available for \$4. Registration forms may be obtained from any MRLC member or by contacting Thomas E. Tiller, executive director of MRLC, Woodland Hills Building, 3000 Old Canton Rd., Suite 260, Jackson, Miss. 39216, or phoning 981-6752.

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CLC trustees reject move to narrow abortion stance

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — By the margin of a single vote, trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission Sept. 17 rejected an attempt to tie the agency's literature on abortion to specific SBC resolutions.

Commission members meeting in annual session turned aside a recommendation which would have instructed the staff of the national ethics agency to produce materials allowing for the possibility of abortion only when the physical life of the mother is endangered.

After lengthy discussion, trustees voted 14-13, with two abstentions, to encourage the agency's staff to continue to produce materials "vigorously opposing abortion on demand." The vote was in support of an amendment which deleted language requiring the agency to produce materials more in line with resolutions on abortion passed by messengers to the 1980, 1982, and 1984 Southern Baptist Conventions.

The reference to the SBC resolutions had been added earlier to a staff recommendation outlining plans to produce special materials about what Southern Baptists are doing throughout the country to provide alternatives to abortion. The commission's program committee had voted 6-4 to add the wording after an appeal by Atlanta pastor James Wood that a pamphlet drafted by CLC Executive Director Foy Valentine does not adequately reflect the sentiments in the three convention resolutions.

While the amended version approved by the full commission omitted reference to the specific resolutions, it added that materials should take "into serious account resolutions and actions made in recent Southern Baptist Conventions."

The vote on the abortion recommendation was one of three narrow votes reflecting the division between so-called moderate-conservatives and fundamental-conservatives within the SBC in the last eight years.

Commission members voted 16-13 in favor of a recommendation from its executive committee that the agency's Distinguished Service Award for 1987 be presented to Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala.

It was the first time in the history of the award that a nominee has been chosen by a split vote. The award, begun in 1965, honors persons who

have provided exceptional leadership in Christian ethics. The vote followed discussion in which two new trustees indicated they did not know who Weatherford was and other members questioned the criteria for her selection.

In the meeting's final action, Louisiana Baptist state paper Editor Lynn P. Clayton was elected chairman, defeating Coy Privette of Kannapolis, N.C., in a secret ballot vote, 15 to 13.

Privette, although nominated as vice chairman by the commission's nominating committee, was nominated as chairman from the floor by Fred Lackey, a pastor from Athens, Ala. Following the vote for chairman, Privette was elected vice chairman and Roy Rhodes of Tallahassee, Fla., was re-elected secretary, both without opposition.

In other actions, commission members:

— Adopted a \$1,006,000 budget for 1986-87, including a six percent cost of living adjustment for the agency's staff. The staff did not receive a cost of living adjustment last year.

— Approved plans to broaden the agency's work in the areas of sanctity of human life and world hunger through new resource materials and special conferences. To help finance new initiatives related to the sanctity of human life, trustees voted to request a \$50,000 allocation from the convention through the SBC Executive Committee.

— Heard a report from the commission's search committee indicating that while "several excellent prospects" had been identified and some had been interviewed for the position of executive director, the committee was "not ready to make a recommendation at this time." Search committee Chairman Charles Wade of Arlington, Texas, said he hopes a special called meeting of the commission to consider a nominee can take place "as early as December."

Valentine, citing a health problem related to blockages in his heart, requested in April that a search committee be appointed to begin the process of finding his successor.

— Approved a recommendation committing the agency "to a course of action leading to the establishment of a substantially enlarged presence in Washington." To facilitate the request, the commission voted to ask the SBC Executive Committee to recommend to the convention a \$200,000 increase in the budget allocation

for the agency "to make possible a permanent staff presence" in the nation's capital beginning with the 1987-88 budget year.

The action follows growing discussion in recent years calling for a Southern Baptist office in Washington to address social issues beyond the program assignment of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which deals exclusively with issues related to religious liberty and separation of church and state.

— Approved plans for a CLC-sponsored task force of Baptist leaders to formulate strategies for education and action on AIDS and plans for development of resources dealing with ethical and pastoral issues associated with the dread disease.

— Heard a report about all-time high distribution of ethics resources to Southern Baptist churches, up more than 50 percent over last year.

In the meeting's closing session, the vote on the abortion recommendation concluded a running debate in which a group of commissioners pressed Valentine on his views on abortion and criticized the agency's literature on abortion as inadequate and ambiguous.

In the final debate, Wood argued "more restrictive" language providing instruction to the agency's staff was required because "without it we're not necessarily calling for any change in the material distributed by the commission."

In response, Valentine said he was willing to work with any commission members "who would like to improve" the agency's literature on abortion. One of the pamphlets in question, he pointed out, already has been revised several times.

Valentine said he believes he and the trustees "are more agreed than disagreed on the sanctity of human life" and urged the commission to focus on "those things we all can agree on."

Nashville, Tenn., pastor David George concurred, saying, "I hate to see us have a shootout when we are growing toward a moral consensus."

Harry Lane, pastor from Eutawville, S.C., voiced support for Wood's recommendation. "The perception in the convention which has caused these resolutions to surface year after year is that the commission has been unresponsive on this issue," he said.

Wilkinson writes for the CLC.

Thursday, October 2, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

WMU exec will accept Christian Life award

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, says she plans to accept the 1987 Distinguished Service Award from the denomination's Christian Life Commission despite opposition from some commission trustees.

The commission, meeting in annual session Sept. 16-17, voted 16-13 by secret ballot to accept its executive committee's nomination of Weatherford, the first time in the 21-year history of the award a nominee has been chosen by a split vote.

The award is given to persons who have made outstanding contributions in Christian ethics. Weatherford would be the third woman to receive the award.

While emphasizing she was "not personally wounded" by the close vote, Weatherford said she was "hurt for the sake of WMU."

"I think our members have a right to be offended that WMU did not get any more consideration than it did from the board members who cast negative votes," she said.

Weatherford added that after more than 28 years in denominational service, including the past 12 as director of the 1.2-million-member WMU, "I am puzzled as to how there could be trustees of one of our Southern Baptist Convention agencies who have never heard the name of the executive director of Woman's Missionary Union."

During discussion of the award nomination, Curtis Caine, Sr., a deacon at First Church, Jackson, and a new commission member, said he did not know "who in the world" Weatherford was. Caine had been nominated to the agency by fellow church member Reuel May, who served on the SBC Committee on Boards.

Another new commission member, Gary Crum of Washington, D.C., requested resumes on future nominees be sent in advance to commission members. "I'm sure it's my fault," he said, "but I don't know her (Weatherford)."

After learning of the comments, Weatherford noted she has been a guest speaker several times in recent years in the church where one of the two trustees is a deacon. Miss Weatherford has spoken several times at First Church, Jackson. Miss Weatherford last spoke at First Church on Feb. 16, 1983, according to Frances Smira, retired WMU director at the church.

The Baptist Record attempted to contact Caine directly, but rather than returning the phone call, he sent a brief report of the meeting. His report made no mention of any discussion of votes.

In his statement, Caine noted, "in order to conscientiously discharge the responsibilities imposed by being chosen the representative from Mississippi on this commission, I would welcome the counsel and advice of my sisters and brothers." Caine's address is 646 Robinhood Rd., Jackson, Miss. 39206, phone 366-1945.

Outgoing Commission Chairman Charles Wade of Arlington, Tex., apologized for not sending informa-

tion in advance, saying, "I'll confess, the thought that someone would not know Carolyn Weatherford just never entered my mind."

Alma Ruth Morgan of Bartlesville, Okla., and a new member, said that while she was "certainly for the WMU," she questioned the timing of the award since Weatherford "has spoken out at the SBC Forum and other places" and has supported the idea of women in ministry. The (SBC) Forum, an event held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention, is commonly identified with moderate conservatives as an alternative to the SBC Pastor's Conference.

The vote on Weatherford's nomination was taken by secret ballot over the objection of Roy Rhodes, who said in all his years on the commission "I have never been asked to vote other than by looking across the table at the others voting."

When the vote was announced, Wade offered "the opportunity" for the trustees to approve Weatherford's nomination by acclamation, but no motion was offered.

Weatherford said she "found it difficult to understand how some of the board members could think WMU is a woman's organization that goes around touting ordination of women. Anyone who knows WMU knows that we are not a woman's organization that happens to support missions. We are a missions organization that happens to be composed of women. Missions is our purpose, our lifeblood, our heritage and our future."

The award, she added, is a "recognition that missions and ethics and evangelism and social action in Jesus' name are inseparable parts of the whole gospel."

Weatherford said Southern Baptists should be "proud of WMU's role in missions education, mission action and mission support. I think those who offered my name in nomination understand that what we do in mission action is very much grassroots citizenship at its finest."

Weatherford said she plans to accept the award because "I think WMU has earned it."

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Mississippi BSU marks 40th year

(Continued from page 3)
massive Christian vacuum that has nothing to do with the purpose of God," he said.

Bible Study

Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, led the Bible study for the convention. His theme was "Your Three Toughest Temptations" from Matt. 4. The first was noted as the temptation to appease physical desire. He said that sometimes the greatest temptation comes after a great spiritual experience and

preparation must be made by saturating the life with scripture.

The second was termed as the temptation to accept popular trends. He pointed out that the popular concept of the day for the mission of Christ was to become king and overthrow the Roman empire.

The third was described as the temptation to acquire power. He noted that Christ's answer to this temptation was to say, "Get out of here. I have but one mission and that is to give my life for those I love so that they will not

have to live a life of failure."

Register pointed out that temptation is not sin but that it can lead us into sin and that it is not unusual. "None of us will avoid it," he said. "But we have to be prepared for it."

Milt Hughes, consultant with National Student Ministries in Nashville, spoke on Saturday morning on "BSU's Vision of Making Disciples." He said that the BSU has been used of God for several reasons. He noted three. The first was because it is committed to

(Continued on page 11)

Ministry in "the hard places" is mandate for Foreign Board

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A mobile evangelistic force made up of both career missionaries and up to 10,000 volunteers might be one way in which Southern Baptists could share the gospel with more of the world's people, R. Keith Parks believes.

Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, suggested the idea in a progress report at the board's September meeting. Since February he has been leading board trustees and staff toward a new level of world evangelization strategy planning.

By the October meeting, Parks said, he hopes to report "some progress" on any organizational changes that may be needed to share the gospel more effectively. Specific recommendations will be made in December.

Parks said a mobile career missionary evangelistic force would be capable of moving quickly to take advantage of opportune times when people in some areas are most open to the gospel message.

"Additionally," he asked, "why couldn't there be 10,000 volunteers who were trained in cross-cultural communication — maybe with at least one language — ready, willing annually to sacrifice themselves and their resources to be a part of a highly mobile force to move across this world in the name of Jesus Christ?"

Such a group, Parks said, "would be a force to be reckoned with in our world."

In seeking new ways to share the gospel with all people, Parks emphasized that the board will never abandon its basic thrust of appointing career missionaries who "incarnate" the gospel of Jesus Christ by learning the language and customs of the people and planting their lives for long periods of time in one country or area.

By the year 2000 Southern Baptists hope to have 5,000 such career missionaries in 125 countries. But these 125 countries, Parks noted, represent only slightly more than half the nations of the world. At least half of the

other 115 to 118 countries, under present circumstances, would not allow missionaries to live there and preach the gospel, he said.

To reach all the world's people, Parks said, the board must explore other means of witness, including a strategy for penetrating these places where normal missionary work is impossible. Only recently, he said, has he felt that he should pray for people in Mecca, the Muslims' holy city, where signs prohibit the entry of Christians and dogs.

"I do not believe God has yet said, 'Don't be concerned about the hard places,'" Parks said.

Southern Baptists also must escalate development of urban strategies, he said, and seek ways to work with other evangelistic groups, "so that we can know what they're doing."

"We do not have the time or the luxury to continue thinking of the world as the private bailiwick of Southern Baptists," he warned. "God has never limited himself to one group. We must not simply duplicate what others are doing but work in connection with others if we are to reach this world in one day."

To provide leadership for worldwide strategy planning, the board hopes to free up some of its creative administrators from normal administrative routine. Parks said many decisions now referred to the home office or to the trustees might be handled effectively by the missionaries themselves through their field organizations.

The missions leader said Southern Baptists also must realize that "we cannot win the world without it having a personal impact on how we live and what happens to our own families."

"Until we have a consuming passion to reach this world that causes us to budget differently, to live differently, to give differently, until we reach a point of being willing to sacrifice, we will not be the people that God is calling us to be," Parks declared.

Parks praised the trustees' plans for a prayer retreat preceding their October board meeting. He identified prayer as the vital "first step" toward any effort to reach the world for Christ and called on all Southern Baptist churches to set aside a special time of "compassionate intercession" at least monthly to pray "that Southern Baptists would be revived, renewed and recommitted to the task of reaching this world for Jesus Christ."

Chairman Robert E. Smith of Weslaco, Texas, announcing plans for the prayer retreat, stressed the importance of the board acting "in one accord" and said that "the only way you get to one accord is to pray to it."

In another action, the board gave notice to plans to change its bylaws to conform to Virginia corporate law, which no longer requires that salaried officers be elected each year. Under the old law, the board's chief executive, treasurer, and assistant recording secretary have been elected each April when the trustee chairman and other officers were elected. If the board bylaw change is approved in October, this no longer will be necessary.

The change has nothing to do with convention policies, board officials said, because the bylaw change has been under consideration for some time.

The Sept. 8-10 meeting featured appointment of 21 new missionaries in a service in Bethany Place Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. Two former missionaries were reappointed.

Special guests for the meeting were 78 Woman's Missionary Union state executives and presidents, along with their national leaders, and members of the board's National Development Council. The council seeks to promote foreign missions awareness among those capable of giving over and above the contributions they would normally make through their churches.

Bob Stanley writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



FMB hosts WMU leaders

When the Foreign Mission Board hosted Woman's Missionary Union leaders from across the United States, it was an unusual opportunity for the women who lead missions education in the Southern Baptist Convention. In addition to observing the September trustees' meeting, the women visited FMB facilities and had dialogue with key FMB administrators. Above, FMB President R. Keith Parks visits with Mrs. Wilda Fancher, Mississippi WMU president (center) and Marjean Patterson, Mississippi WMU executive director. (FMB photo by Stanley Leary)

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Sharkey-Issaquena Association's WMU presents Missions Night Out

Missions Night Out, held at Valley Park Church, Sept. 23, was again this year a tremendous success with everyone in the association invited — men, women, youth and children, reports Mrs. Martha L. Hicks, WMU director for the association.

Ben Nash, medical missionary to Ghana, spoke of God's call. "As we listened and viewed his slides, we were reminded of how fortunate we are to be able to just turn on the water faucet and have pure, clean water — all we want," said Mrs. Hicks. "Once again, it was brought to our attention how much God has blessed and given us here in America as we saw the crowded market place, the primitive farm implements used in Ghana, and the hospital (with the fly swatter). Dr. Nash stated that one of the most im-

portant items in the operating room was the fly swatter which they had to use before each operation."

Sue Tatum, Yazoo City, state W.M.U. vice president and State Centennial Chairman, spoke on "Celebrating Our Heritage." She stated that "those persons who have encouraged or helped us most in our lifetime, with few exceptions, have been persons involved in missions."

Mission Action was carried out as each of 76 in attendance brought a can of food. Also a love offering totaling \$375 was collected. The food and money will be given to Aubrey Jones, Clarke County pastor, and his family.

The program was planned by the Associational WMU Council and Mrs. Hicks.

Singapore Bible ministry grows

SINGAPORE — Up to 20,000 public school students in the island city-nation of Singapore will study God's Word this year through "Bible Knowledge." So far, the Baptist Media Center of Singapore has received 96 orders for Bible Knowledge materials from high schools.

The government's Ministry of Education has asked the center to help train 80 new teachers to the Bible Knowledge program. In the past, some teachers have talked with their students outside of classes about a personal relationship with Christ.

One boy asked his teacher how he could understand the Bible. She explained to him how God could open up his understanding, and he accepted Christ as his savior.

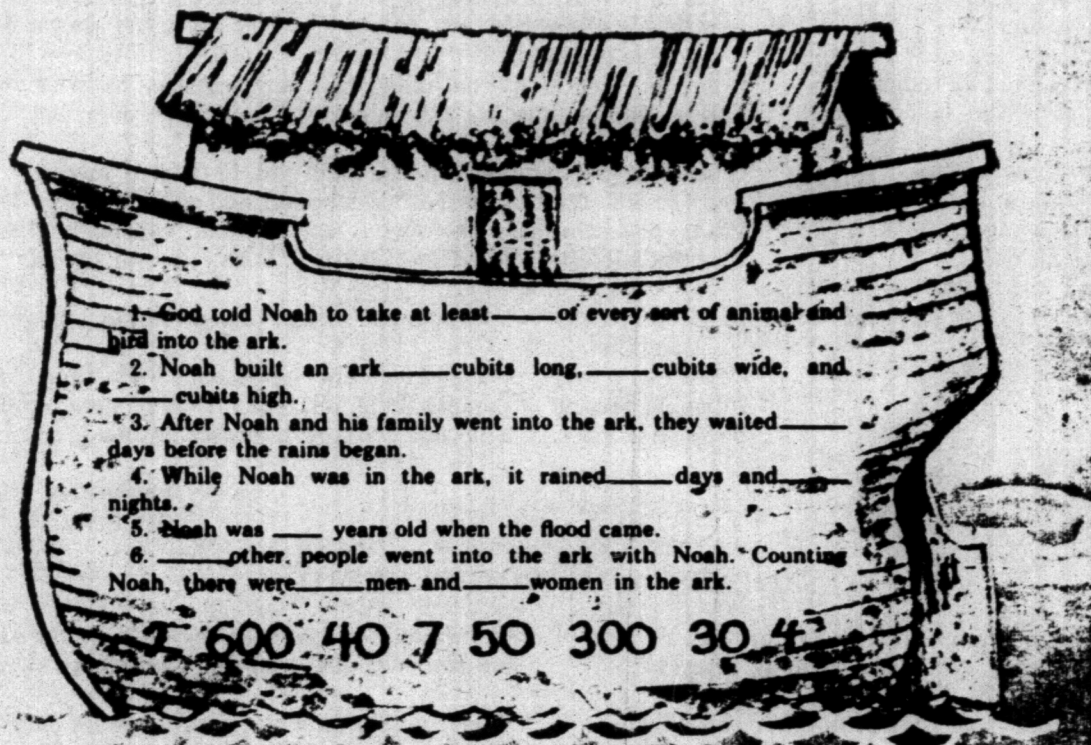
CHILDREN'S PAGE

GEOGRAFUN: (For Young Readers) Nations and Imaginations

How much do you know about Noah?

By Anne McWilliams

The numbers below the quiz refer to certain happenings in the life of Noah. Enter one number on each blank line in the sentences below. The same number might go in more than one blank.



For Bible Searchers, Oct.-Dec. 1972. © Copyright 1972 The Sunday School Board of the Southern

Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

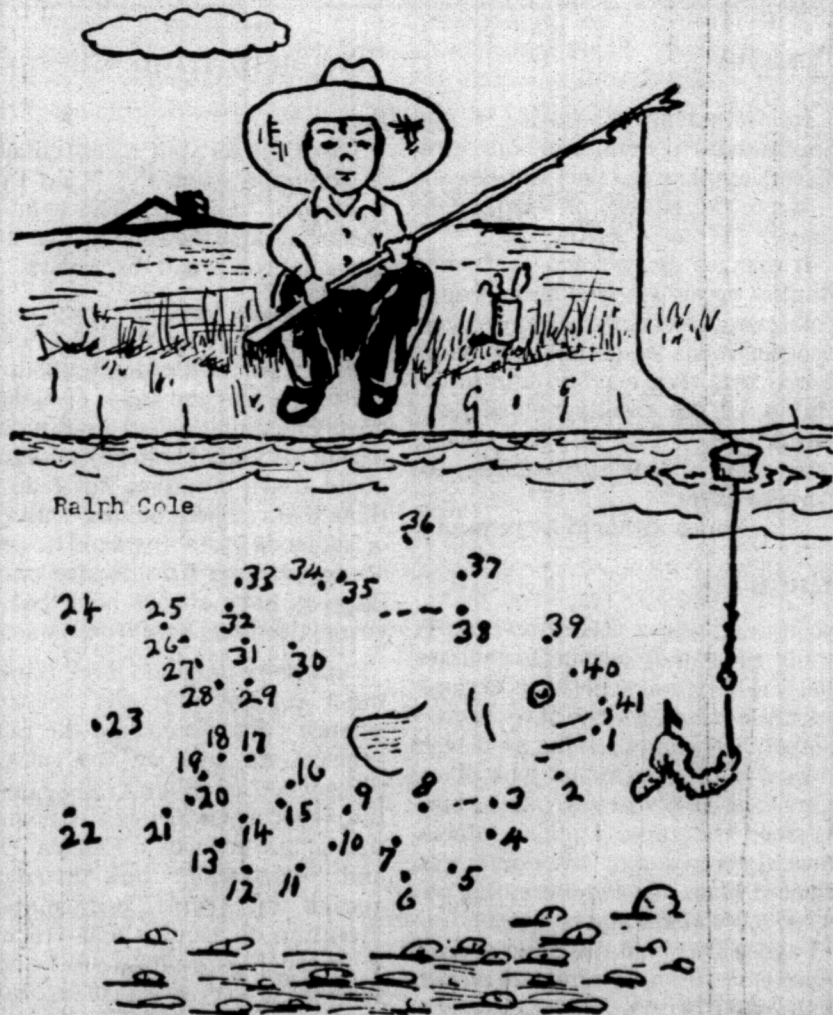
By Ralph C. Peterson



Map of Israel's West Bank

What does this map look like to you? Color this picture.

What is he about to catch?



Write the answer here:

Bible kings

Match the king with his kingdom:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Og | 1. Persia |
| Cyrus | 2. Israel |
| Tiglath-pileser | 3. Bashan |
| Omri | 4. Assyria |
| Ben-hadad | 5. Judah |
| Eglon | 6. Syria |
| Rehobam | 7. Moab |

Answers: upside down

- R-5 (I Kings 14:21)
E-7 (Judges 3:16-17)
B-6 (II Chronicles 16:2)
O-2 (I Kings 16:16)
T-4 (II Kings 15:29)
C-1 (II Chronicles 36:22)
O-3 (Numbers 21:33)

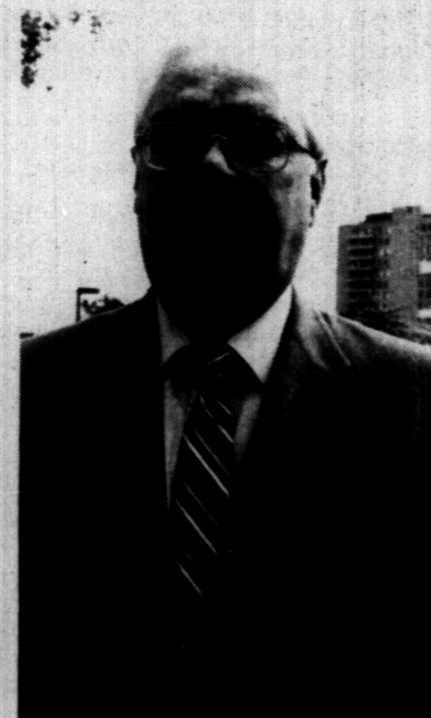
Counting time is not as important as making time count.

Love's first cousin is trust.

Life's treasures

Life's treasures are life's pleasures
Though some don't understand.
What lies before us is God's plan
Look beyond the surface of things you see
Look to the inside, for beauty unseen.
What lies at present will all fade away
Only that that is done for the Lord will stay.
—Romy Case
Brookhaven

Meet the GEOGRAFUN writer:



Ralph Peterson

Ralph Peterson, creator of Geografun, lives in Alexandria, Va. He has been an information analyst with the Federal Government at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. since 1978. In the eight years before that, he worked with two other government agencies.

For several years he worked as a technical writer and engineer in the aerospace industry before earning a degree in library science. During four years in the U.S. Air Force, he was stationed in Alaska and Michigan.

He holds a master's degree in library science from Florida State University, a B. S. degree in engineering physics from Auburn, and a B. A. degree in English from the University of West Florida.

Mr. Peterson is a Southern Baptist, and regularly attends worship services at First Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. He is unmarried.

His home town is Pensacola, Fla. Besides writing, he is interested in fishing and photography. He says that he hopes to publish some of the artwork from Geografun in a book for children.

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SCRAPBOOK

"Peace be unto you"

There was a woman whose life seemed spent
with one hand reaching for the stars
and the other arm lifted in self-defense to deter
the world from falling on her.

The sunset was blood red through tall thin pines,
and high above hung a premature white
thin slice of moon with paling light.
But oh, many a storm had bent the quiet,
and tumultuous life had stolen the woman's peace.
How strong other spirits seemed, how frail was she
plodding knee keep in swampland futility.

Yet the woman conceded as the trouble day grew dim:
"I have walked in the garden with Jesus.
I have strolled in the valley with him."

I like the way when Jesus approached an unholy way
He always said (he always says) "Peace be unto you.
Fear not." And the darkness, the sadness,
the hurt, the mean things and all the badness
disperse. And I turn from the wailing wall
home to my wild old country back yard.
I look and a royal cardinal flits all over
the pure white blooms of the ragged magnolia,
and I stoop to gather some sudden velvet red gladioli.

— Violet Tackett, McComb

Goodbye, Summertime

Goodbye, Summertime, I know it has to show
That we are very happy, and glad to see you go.
You've done your job admirably
Everything for you went well
For months you have roasted us,
And rain from us withheld.

You bombarded us with insects,
Made weeds grow six feet tall,
I think your going is the reason
I'm in love with Fall!

We know that you'll return again
But please do take your time
Maybe when you come again
We'll all have changed our minds!

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager
State Line

That Word

It has bound a many, blessed a plenty; it has been faithful in everything it
said it would do
It has never lied, or never denied, those who believed it was true.
It has brought about rain, as well as other things, and that which they said
couldn't be done.
But, as of yet, it only takes effect when spoken by a certain someone.

It has brought about snow, rivers that flow, that ground which you walk upon,
Stories you tell, sick, healed, or well, it's the cause of its all being done.
It has fed a many meal, paid a many bill, a servant it has faithfully been.
And it just can't be told by any soul, where, how, what, or when.

It has its own way of moving, as well as choosing, and it picks only the very best
And that is already known, before it is even born, the reason why, it won't
have to guess.

It has given so many that didn't have any, a reason to shout for joy
And woman or man fits into its plan, as well as a girl or boy.

It has brought the mail, release from jail, to those it saw fit
It talks with action, as well as satisfaction, and nothing can be done about it.
It has raised the dead; the blind it has led; it has caused the flowers to grow
It's impossible to hold, or even control; it has its own say so.

It has created creation, brought peace and relaxation, put a prayer upon pray-
ing lips

Never has it slept, or asked for help; never once will it make a slip
It has no respect of persons as of yet, and I, as one, stand ready to agree.
Because now at last, it has come to pass, that word has made a saint out of me.

—Hugh Westley Bagley
Friars Point

Spring will come again

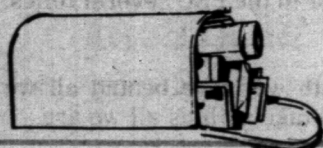
Today I watched a leaf float to the ground,
It was yellow, not green like those all around,
"Too early for fall," I said in my mind,
But September is here, with summer behind.

When April moved in I missed out on spring;
The long days of summer, and still the same thing.

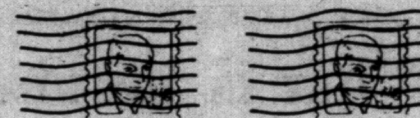
I've waited for fall when my body would mend,
But fall is so near and this pain knows no end.

Winter comes on with its chill and its cold —
I won't let myself become bitter and old.
I'll look for God's will in his plan for all things,
Tune my heart and my soul to await other springs.

—Maxine E. McAdory
Jackson



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

A tribute to two deacons

In the last few months, two of my all-time favorite deacons have died. In separate churches where I have been pastor, they served as chairmen of the deacons and spiritual counselors to this preacher. This passing leaves gaps which can never be filled.

Delma Tucker served at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Greenville, Miss. Since this was my first pastorate after seminary, Delma had his job cut out for him, trying to counsel and yet follow this kid preacher. He did both with grace. "Preacher!" he would call into the phone. "This is Old Man Tucker! Got time for a cup of coffee!" I always did, because I knew Delma was not trying to pass the time of day. He had important business for his pastor. As a used car salesman, he brought honor and dignity to that profession.

Some years later, the church ran into some difficult days. Many members jumped ship. Delma stayed on and did his job.

Rudolph M. Hough served at the First Baptist Church of Columbus, Miss. As a professional nurseryman, much of the floral beauty of this southern city resulted from his work.

Over the 12 years I served as his pastor, we sat in perhaps a hundred or more deacon meetings together. There were exciting times and depressing times. He usually sat quietly listening to the discussion on the floor. When he finally spoke, it would be with wisdom and insight.

Rudy loved his church, was a supporter of his pastor and staff, and invariably did whatever he thought necessary to help them.

You won't be seeing Delma or Rudy in church again. They've been called to higher duty.

Revelation 22:3 speaks of believers in heaven, "And his servants shall serve Him." Rudy and Delma will be right at home there. They learned to serve the Lord a long time ago!

Joe McKeever, pastor
First Church
Charlotte, N.C.

A fault recognized is half corrected.

No amount of riches can atone for poverty of character.

The model prayer

Editor:

When I was a small child in a small rural school in northeast Mississippi, our teachers would have a devotional before starting classes. One of my teachers would inevitably say: "Now, for our prayer, let's say the Lord's Prayer."

Later, when I was in my late teens or early twenties, the blessed pastor of our part-time church in that community taught us from the pulpit the truth about the passage beginning with Matthew 6:9 — that this passage is the model prayer and that the Lord's Prayer is John 17.

In Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary our professors emphasized that Matthew 6:9 — is a model, pattern, or blue print for prayer and not a prayer.

It amazes me to know that some Baptist preachers who have been to college and seminary, will say to their congregations essentially the same words that that teacher said to the children in that country school many years ago: "Now for our closing prayer let's all hold hands and say the Lord's Prayer."

Name withheld by request

Facts and theories

Editor:

I am in general agreement with the sentiments expressed by you in your recent editorial, "What price evolution?" that only the facts concerning the origin of the universe should be taught in public schools. However, if theories are taught, they should be taught equally. Facts and theories are often difficult to separate in fallible human minds. Too often "our" theories are fact and "their" facts are theory.

I think you illustrated my point regarding our falling into the non-believer's semantic trap when you stated, "It is true that scientific findings have indicated that the formation of the earth took more than six days, and took place more than 8,000 years ago, . . ." To me, that comes mighty

close to stating a theory as fact. It would seem more accurate to state that it is true that on the basis of some scientific findings, some have theorized that the formation of the earth took more than six days, and took place more than 8,000 years ago, while, based upon the same findings, others have theorized that the earth was created in six days and creation occurred 8,000 years ago or less.

I agree that both the Bible and all other evidence accommodate an age of the earth between Bishop Ussher's 4004 B.C. and around 10,000 years, but I would be interested in knowing a single reliable shred of evidence other than God's revelation that proves how long God took to create the earth.

Carl D. Ford
Laurel

"No help from Caesar"

Editor:

Thank you for your recent editorial on "creation science" ("What Price Evolution?", Sept. 11). This is an important issue in the church-state field, and it merits broad discussion.

Americans United's brief at the Supreme Court on the subject emphasizes our sole concern about the matter: I find the Book of Genesis deeply meaningful and an important part of my faith. I believe its message about God's creation. But I do not think that religious beliefs — my own or someone else's — should be given special preference by the government. Baptists have always held that the gospel needs no help from Caesar!

On a more practical level, Baptists must realize that the "creation science" introduced into the public schools may not be the religious perspective we prefer. A few years ago the Jehovah's Witnesses announced that public schools in Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania had distributed copies of their "creationism" literature to faculty and students. What religious groups would be next? Once the protective wall of separation between church and state is broken down, religious groups of all sorts would be free to intrude into the spiritual upbringing of our children.

Supporters of the Louisiana creation-science law are well-

(Continued on page 14)

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

We celebrated on Ship Island

Today, September 25, is our 31st wedding anniversary, but W. D. and I celebrated last Saturday with a trip to Ship Island. He started the day right by bringing coffee to me in bed.

We arrived a few minutes early to buy our \$10 tickets at the Buena Vista Pier, so I had time also to buy a microscopic bottle of suntan lotion for \$6.66 plus tax. Black clouds raced their chariots across a corner of sky, and white caps paraded across the sea, line after line. But the sunshine bravely continued to stay in the battle. The Pan American pulled away from the dock on time, at 9 a.m.

Most of the 40 or 50 passengers rushed up to the top deck to seek seats in the sun. We found a good place and leaned back to amuse ourselves with people watching.

Captain Salty (that was the name stamped on his yellow T-shirt), obviously a member of the crew, entertained the crowd by playing his harmonica. A lean old man, toughened (I imagined) by years at sea, he held his head back and shut one eye like a pirate, while he played. His receding hair covered most of his head with a gray stubble. I asked him what he was playing. I think he said, "I'll love you, my dear, forever and ever," or something like that. Anyhow, I thought that would be a good tune for our anniversary celebration day.

Two tow-headed children sat down on the steep steps. A pretty brunette in the uniform of a park ranger asked them to move to a safer place.

A man wearing blue shorts and shirt and a white cap, stood up and took his wife's picture. He told me they were from Lubbock, Texas, and were ending a two-week vacation in Mississippi. It had been super, he said — "just super." They'd been to

Vicksburg, Natchez, and the Coast.

A one-way trip to Ship takes an hour and 15 minutes. Halfway there (coffee break time), I looked about and saw that nearly everyone had a picnic hamper or an ice chest. "I'm hungry," it dawned on me. And I had not thought of packing a lunch. Oh, well, we'd buy something at the Snack Bar on the island "Just in case," we bought potato chips, candy bars, and Cocolas on the boat. Within sight of land, we heard the thunder — grumbling at first, far away, and then suddenly close, booming, as if the old cannons on Fort Massachusetts had opened fire. Lightning zipped across the sky. The sun disappeared.

We stepped onto the plank walk that leads from the boat pier to the beach on the other side of the island. "Slippery," I said, and took off my shoes. Rain began to fall into the cups of Coke we held in our hand. Rain fell on us, too. And on everyone else. Some folks dodged into the doorway of the fort. (We heard later that mosquitoes were defending the fort well, and soon sent the invaders into retreat.)

Ahead of us on the bridgeway, a young mother hopped along on crutches. Her husband pushed their baby in a stroller. Two teen-age boys passed us, lugging an ice chest. A woman pulled a big (sun?) hat out of her beach bag and set it on her head. As we approached the first bath house, the drops of rain changed into sheets of rain. Thunderclaps roared and then reverberated like giant drumbeats. W. D. and I stopped at the shelter over the water fountain while stragglers in twos and threes struggled past us with their picnic loads, leaning against the wind.

Dark gray skies mingled with dark gray seas. Bright streaks of lightning

periodically changed the whole world to an eerie turquoise. Fifteen or twenty of us escaped into the bath house, the men on one side, women on the other. "Snack shop is closed," somebody yelled from away out toward the beach. From the dark and dingy, but delightfully dry, bath house, I looked out a window onto a scene of wild beauty — sea oats tossing in the wind and yellow wildflowers turning their faces up to be washed by the rain.

When finally the downpour slacked, W. D. and I slogged over to the seashore and walked briefly along the wet sand, watching people eating picnics in a fine drizzle, and swimming in a storm-tossed sea.

At 12:15, the Pan American skipper sounded the ship's horn. Fifteen minutes later, we left the island. Blue sky began to appear in spots; we sat on the rooftop again and faced a terrific wind. The lovely fresh-cheeked girls in a Mennonite family had taken off their little black caps, to go swimming. Now their long hair and the skirts of their dresses swirled in the air currents. A couple of love birds sat near us, beautiful in their youth, both with dark summer tans, acting, I suppose, like honeymooners might act. I thought, "That could be us, 31 years ago, the first time we came to Ship Island!" That long ago day W. D. gave me a seashell; I was nearly scared out of my wits when I saw that it had a live creature inside it.

Saturday was a good day of relaxation and laughter, the kind of day we all need every now and then. As my husband took my hand to help me onto the dock, my heart was echoing the strains of Captain Salty's harmonica: "I'll love you, my dear, forever and ever."



Pictured are Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jessie White, and Jerry Merriman, director of the Student Work Department, MBCB. White presents the deed to a lot given for the BSU at Delta State.

Delta State student union receives tract of land

Jessie White, retired head of the Biological Sciences Department at Delta State University, Cleveland, has given a tract of land to that school's Baptist Student Union in memory of his wife, the late Minnie Patton White.

The lot, according to BSU director Jimmy Breland, is 65 by 198 feet and will likely be used for parking, outdoor recreational activities, and a portion used as a memorial prayer garden in memory of Mrs. White. The lot is adjacent to the BSU building. The late Mrs. White, reared in

Shubuta, taught home economics at the University of Southern Mississippi and at Delta State. She taught Sunday School at First Church, Cleveland, and at a long-term health care facility and was active in WMU work. White, reared in Cleveland, holds the Ph.D. degree in science, is a deacon at First Church, and has been faculty advisor to the BSU several times.

At death we leave behind all we have and take with us all we are.

Devotional Turning scars into stars

By James Ruffin
Romans 8:31, 32

Scars are a part of life. They come in many shapes—death, dismay, discouragement, disappointment. You may experience sickness, loss of job, marital problems. You may feel inferior, lonely, crushed. Never a day passes but what someone somewhere is dealt a smashing blow. If you live long enough you will have your share of scars. No one is immune. No one escapes.

Scars can be turned into stars. "If God be for us, who can be against us" (Rom. 8:31)? Because God is for us we can turn the scars of earth into the stars of glory.

Gerald Nees, at fifteen years of age, was confined to a wheel chair for the rest of his life because of a swimming accident. It would have been easy to give up, but not Gerald. He was determined to turn his scars into stars. He decided to take up art. "How on earth can you do that?" friends asked. "Your hands cannot move." Determined, he learned to draw with a pencil between his teeth. He later received a scholarship from a famous artist's school where he learned to work with oils. Now in his thirties, Gerald paints the things of beauty he sees all around him, holding a brush steadily in his mouth. He makes good money for his paintings and helps support his family. His paintings and his attitude inspire many. Gerald Nees is turning his scars into stars. "If God be for us who can be against us?"

Look around you and you can see people every day, in all sorts of situations, large and small, refusing to accept defeat, refusing to let their circumstances conquer them. Look to Jesus who never fails. Develop a strong faith in God. God makes the difference in any situation. Any person with God is a majority anywhere, anytime, in any situation. The person who has God may be down for the moment but he is not beaten. With God you can bounce back stronger than ever. You can turn your scars into stars. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" James Ruffin is pastor, Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian.



Ruffin

Foreign Board selects Ellis Bush Bold Mission promotion coordinator

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Ellis M. Bush has been named Southern Baptist's Bold Mission Thrust promotion coordinator.

Bush has been executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey since 1978. He will assume his new post Nov. 10.

Bold Mission Thrust is Southern Baptists' campaign to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person on earth by the year 2000. The program is being implemented through a variety of projects. For example, current Bold Mission Thrust emphases are to make new Christian converts, develop the faith of Christians, and start new churches.

Bush is to be the "denominational entrepreneur" needed to make the campaign work, said Reginald M. McDonough, executive vice president of the convention's Executive Committee and Bold Mission Thrust planning coordinator, with whom Bush

will work.

"We feel we have found a person who has experience in church, state convention, and Southern Baptist life who understands the processes of planning and promotion to be the entrepreneur that is needed," McDonough said. "The last 13 years of Bold Mission Thrust will require Southern Baptists to redouble our effort and commitment to Bold Mission Thrust and get persons involved at every level."

Bush will work with state convention and denominational agency staff members to develop a coordinated promotion plan for Bold Mission Thrust. He also will be the chief interpreter of that plan to state convention and agency groups.

"The process has included states for the first time," noted Dan C. Stringer, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention. He said the position of state conventions in

carrying out Bold Mission Thrust will be strengthened by the relationship of Bush to state conventions through the Bold Mission Thrust Advisory Committee.

Bush will chair the 10-member advisory committee, which includes two state convention executive directors and seven SBC agency staff members.

Bush will be the chief salesman of the Bold Mission Thrust "product" — specific programs and activities that churches and other Southern Baptist groups can conduct to help them reach their Bold Mission Thrust goals, McDonough said. Bush will lead in helping churches understand and implement denominational programs.

He will work out of Nashville, Tenn., and will be employed by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. However, his position will function as a service to the denomination, not a function of the board.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

Just for the Record



Big Creek Church, Waynesboro, recently held note burning of its debt of \$125,000 during homecoming day. Franklin McLelland, former pastor, was speaker. Cecil Mills gave a summary of how Big Creek Church, once called "The White House," was established in 1865. Ashley Freeman, pastor, read scripture.

Deacons are pictured, right to left, Jerry Cochran, Rex Ferguson, Lonnie Williams, Budgie Mills, Cecil Mills. Left to right, Albert McCarty, Ray Cochran, Paul Davis, and Craig Mills.



Oak Grove Church, Lexington, held a dedication service for its new building, fellowship hall and four classrooms, Aug. 31. Dinner on the grounds and gospel music was presented. Plaques were presented to be hung in the fellowship hall in appreciation for contributions made. Plans are under way for the building fund to construct a new sanctuary.

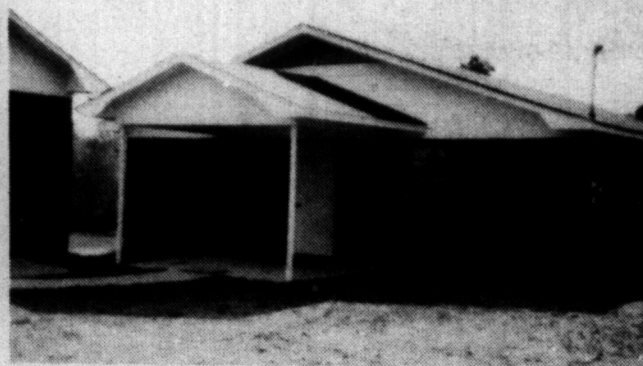


Concord Church, Booneville held dedication, Aug. 31, of the recently installed chimes. The chimes were presented by the family of Harry White in his memory.

Pictured next to the cornerstone are Mrs. Harry White; Bill Dowdy, recently called as pastor; and Elizabeth White.

Cato Baptist Church, Mendenhall, will celebrate its fall festival, Oct. 18, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sponsored by the mission organizations of the church to raise money for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, there will be a supper, cake walk, booths such as apple bobbing, and a game room.

Friendship Church, McComb, will have a dedication service for its new pastorium, Oct. 5, 11 a.m. Sunday afternoon, 3 to 5 p.m., the church will host a tour of the home, which was made possible by a gift from the late Mr. and Mrs. Warren R. Brewer, Troy Bankston, pastor.



Pearl Hill Church, Carthage, has completed construction on its fellowship hall, (left), and is near completion of its barbecue pit (right). Eddie Pilgrim is pastor.



Mt. Zion Church, Columbus, recently held its Acteen recognition service, "His Way Mine." Pictured, left to right, are Sherry Colburn, Heather Hawkins, Jill Daffron, Wendy McKay, Stephanie Bryant, Shelly Dortch, Bethe Enlow, Lisa Dortch, Tanya Colburn, Monica Sims, and Janet Guinn.

Crown bearers, front row are Samantha O'Bryant, Amy Perry, Sarah Enlow, Rehanna Barksdale, Angela Watson, and Mariah Hamilton.

David J. Perry is pastor.

MC to present Ludlow concert

The Mississippi College Department of Music will present Edward Ludlow, organist, in concert, Oct. 16, at 8 p.m. in Provine Chapel on the Mississippi College campus.

Ludlow is associate professor of

organ and church music at Blue Mountain College.

The program will include works by Buxtehude, Bach, Brahms, Guilman, and Mulet.

Hernando pastor's wife dies at 54

Mrs. Jorean Pigott Corkern, 54, of Hernando died, Aug. 6 following a stroke.

Mrs. Cockern was a registered nurse at Northwest Mississippi Junior College and the wife of W. E. Corkern, pastor of Hernando Baptist Church.

Services were held, Aug. 8 at Hernando Church.

Survivors include her husband; a

daughter, Julie Corkern; two sons, Robert Corkern and Paul Corkern, all of Hernando; a sister, Mrs. J. U. Sylvest of Franklinton, La. The family requested that any memorials be sent to Hernando Baptist Church.

Uruguayan Baptists celebrate 75 years

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — Uruguayan Baptists recently celebrated their 75th anniversary of Baptist work, which started humbly in a meeting room with vegetable crate chairs.

Now there are 100 churches and mission points in the South American country, 2,600 members, a Baptist Theological Seminary, a modern communications center, convention office building and a national conference center, said Wally Poor, a Southern Baptist missionary there.

The first church was organized by J. C. Quarles. He and his brother, Lemuel, both early Southern Baptist missionaries to Argentina, surveyed Uruguay for potential pioneer work.

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Committee named to study BJCPA

(Continued from page 3)

Huntsville, Ala. Other members are Frank Ingraham, an attorney from Nashville, Tenn.; Frank Lady, an attorney from Jonesboro, Ark.; Paul Pressler, a judge from Houston, and Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

Also on the committee as ex officio members are David Maddox, a real estate developer from Fullerton, Calif., chairman of the Executive Committee, and James Jones, pastor of Campbellsville (Ky.) Baptist Church, chairman of the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee.

In addition to creating the study committee, the Executive Committee also instructed the seven-member body to study the "size and/or constituency" of the Public Affairs Committee. The motion was referred to the Executive Committee by the 1986 Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, which did not explain its reason for requesting the study.

The PAC is composed of the current SBC president, nine executives of SBC agencies and five at-large members. In addition to the president, seven agency leaders serve by virtue of office: the chief executives of the Executive Committee, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Board, Christian Life Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission. Two other agency executives also are elected to the 15-member body.

This is the fourth consecutive year criticism of the BJCPA has come before the Executive Committee. In 1983, the committee encouraged BJCPA "to be sensitive to the concerns of the Southern Baptists"; in 1984, it declined to defund the group;

in 1985, it found the establishment of an exclusive Southern Baptist office in Washington "does not appear practicable."

In addition, the BJCPA survived a 1984 effort by an Executive Committee member — Ed Drake of Dallas — to defund it. During the 1984 annual meeting, messengers voted 5,854 (51.6 percent) to 5,480 (48.3 percent) to continue to fund the BJCPA through the Public Affairs Committee.

Although Daniels' motion called for severing SBC ties, Young, chairman of the seven-member committee, thinks the options are not limited to considering ways of breaking the relationship and of establishing a Southern Baptist presence in the nation's capital.

"I see us as having a scope ranging from abandonment of the Baptist Joint Committee to learning more and enhancing our work with the committee," Young said.

Following adjournment of the Executive Committee, seven of the members met for a brief organizational meeting. Pressler and Robinson did not attend because of prior commitments. The committee discussed possible ways of going about their assignment and decided to meet again Oct. 3-4 in Dallas.

It was noted much of the criticism of the BJCPA during the annual meeting debate centered on abortion, an issue with which the committee does not deal.

Young also asked that any comments or information from Southern Baptists concerning the work of the study committee be directed either to him at 3100 W. Camelback, Phoenix, Ariz. 85017 or to Yates at P. O. Box 12, Yazoo City, Miss. 39194.

Although there was no discussion when the Executive Committee

adopted the recommendation, it was fully reviewed by the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee. Discussion favored creation of the special committee, but most of the talk concerned the membership of the fact-finding body and whether it would be "fair and balanced."

During its morning session, the subcommittee gave preliminary approval to creating the committee, but delayed final action until the afternoon session when Maddox made public the names of those he had selected for membership on the committee.

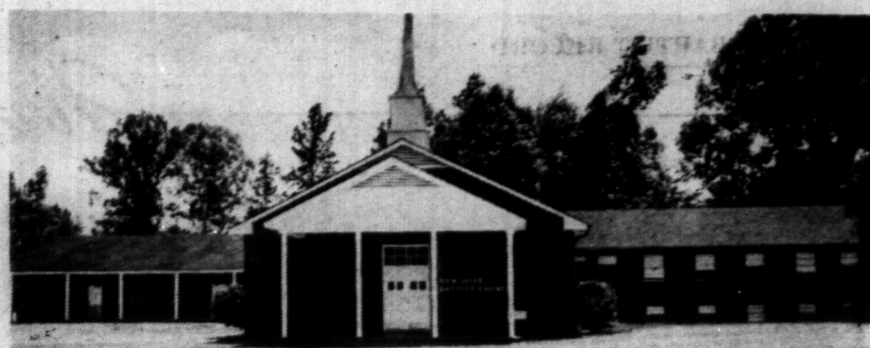
When the recommendation came to the plenary session, it said Maddox "nominated" the committee members, who were "confirmed" by the subcommittee and recommended to the entire Executive Committee.

Young said "because of the sensitivity" of the issue and the committee assignment, he would not have served without action by the entire Executive Committee, even though appointments generally are made by the chairman and do not require ratification by the entire body.

The issue of a Southern Baptist presence in Washington also came up when Foy Valentine, executive director-treasurer of the SBC Christian Life Commission, requested an additional \$200,000 in funding "to make possible a permanent Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission office and staff presence in Washington."

Valentine told Baptist Press Christian Life Commission directors adopted a motion requesting the additional funding for a Washington office when they met for their annual meeting Sept. 17.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

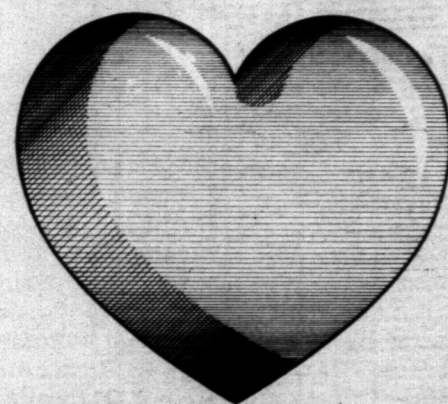


New Hope to celebrate 100th year

New Hope Church, Monticello, will celebrate its centennial, October 12. Featured speaker will be N. W. Carpenter, retired professor from Mississippi College and pastor at New Hope from 1948-1951.

Dinner on the ground will be served immediately following the morning worship service. There will be an afternoon service in which the Dixie Echoes, of Pensacola, Fla., will be featured. Mike Staton is pastor.

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Jackson, \$58,000
First Baptist Church
Columbus, \$30,000
Broadmoor Baptist Church
Jackson, \$22,464
First Baptist Church
Greenville, \$12,734
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Vicksburg, \$11,308
First Baptist Church
Gulfport, \$11,285
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Brandon, \$10,553
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Pontotoc, \$10,354

(Figures obtained from your state convention office and from Uniform Church Letters. Figures based on churches with resident membership of 25 or more.)

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Mississippi BSU marks 40th year

(Continued from page 5)

the faith of Christian basics. The second was because it is unqualifiedly committed to local churches and is tied to the local church. And the third was that it achieves a balance. "We've stuck with basics and still addressed issues," he said.

"Every generation must be evangelized and committed to carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth," he declared.

Hughes noted that it was Frank Leavell of Mississippi who was the one who pulled the BSU together originally in 1922. He mentioned visiting Leavell's grave at Oxford, Miss., and pointed out that Leavell chose to serve God through college students.

Conferences

During the convention there were 15 conferences that were repeated in a second session. The conferences and their leaders were Being Single, Rich Malone, minister of youth and college at Parkway Church, Jackson; Student Missions, Lloyd Luncford, associate director, Mississippi student work; Reaching Students through Bible Study, Keith Williams, consultant in the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Choosing a Marriage Partner, Bradley and JoAnn Pope, counselors with the Shepherd's Staff, Jackson;

Discovering God's Will, James Richardson, pastor, First Church, Madison; Time Management and Priorities, Wil McCall, BSU director, University of Southern Mississippi; Sharing and Effective Witness, Don Rhymes, minister of evangelism, First Church, Jackson; Disciplines of the Faith, Milt Hughes, consultant, National Student Ministries; Churchmanship: Avoiding Murphy's Law, Dean Register, pastor, First Church, Gulfport; How to be an Effective Peer Counselor, Ron Mumbower, minister of counseling, First Church, Jackson; Living Positively in a Negative World, Gerald Harris, pastor, Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; Developing and Maintaining a Healthy Self Image, Rob Boyd, student, New Orleans Seminary; Let Your Yes Be Yes: Commitment/Responsibility, Jim Futrell, pastor, Broadmoor Church, Jackson; and Seminary Education, Beth Lambert (Southern), John Gibson (New Orleans), and Larry Horton (Southwestern). The 15th conference was one for BSU directors, faculty advisors, and church workers with college students. It was led by Jerry Merriam, state student work director, and Blackaby.

A mini concert by New Creation, the college ensemble for First Church, Jackson, began the convention. In addition, the Sunday Company, a Chris-

tian drama group of Jackson, delivered the theme interpretation on the first night. On Saturday morning music was presented by The Revelation, the college ensemble of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Student Missions

A focus on student missions on Saturday evening had as a panel Jennifer Dean of USM (New England), Kevin Hand, Mississippi College (Malaysia), Scott Hummel, William Carey College (Kentucky), and Carol Bates, MSU (Utah/Idaho).

Jenny McLemore, an elementary school music teacher from Montgomery, Ala., was in charge of the music for the convention. She presented pre-session concerts and special music as well as conducting congregational music.

Gary Permenter, state BSU president, presided at most sessions. Mindy Pardue, vice-president, presided for one.

Following the Saturday evening session the students went to prayer sessions for their own schools led by the BSU directors of each.

WHEATON, Ill. (EP) — Records of the Moody Memorial Church, dating back to the 1870s, have been received by the Archives of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College.

Missionary News

Karen Thomas, journeyman to Burkina Faso, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as a student worker (address: Mission Baptiste, BP 580, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso). She was born in Winona, Miss., but considers Philpot, Ky., her hometown. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1986, she was graduated from Georgetown (Ky.) College.

Jana Hemphill, journeyman to Liberia, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as a secondary business teacher (address: P. O. Box 1416, Monrovia, Liberia). She was born in Greenwood, Miss., but considers Louisville, Miss., her hometown. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1986, she was a secretary at Mississippi State (Miss.) University.

Samuel R. J. and Virginia Cannata, missionaries to Tanzania, report a change of address (P. O. Box 586, Zanzibar, Tanzania). He is a native of Houston, Texas, and she is the former Virginia Currey of Hollandale, Miss.

Karl and Peggy Wallace, missionaries to Peru, report a change of address (Apartado 3177, Lima, Peru). Born in Magee, Miss., he lived most of his life in nearby Jackson. She is the former Peggy Vaughn of Jackson.

John and Amy Purl, missionaries to Ghana, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Box 1933, Kumasi, Ghana). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Kosciusko, and considers McComb his hometown. The former Amy Perdew, she was born in Kansas City, Mo., lived in several states and considers McComb her hometown.

Carroll and Cheryl Camp, missionaries to Kenya since 1979, have resigned from missionary service. The Foreign Mission Board approved their resignation at its September meeting. They served in Kitale, Kenya, where he was a church development adviser, and she was a church and home worker. He is from Meridian, Miss. She is the former Cheryl Lever of South Carolina. They may be addressed at 412 W. Screven St., Quitman, Ga. 31643.

Jon Casimir, journeyman to Uganda, has arrived on the field to begin his two-year term of service as a student worker (address: P. O. Box 1734, Kampala, Uganda). He was born in Meridian, Miss., and considers Wichita, Kan., his hometown. Before he was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1986, he was graduated from Kansas State University of Agriculture and Applied Science, Manhattan.

Daniel and Sharon Bradley, missionaries to Kenya, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 2064, Kisumu, Kenya). He is a native of Gulfport. The former Sharon Freret, she was born in Gulfport and grew up in Saucier. They were appointed in 1982.

Michael and Katherine Chute, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401). He was born in Beardstown, Ill. She is the former Katherine Bengel of Brookhaven. They were appointed in 1982.

Robert and Angelyn Golmon, missionaries to Taiwan, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 481 Jacks Creek Circle, Henderson, Tenn. 38340). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Franklin County and lived in Moss Point during much of his early life. She is the former Angelyn Deaton of Jackson, Tenn. They were appointed in 1971.

James P. and Dottie Gilbert, missionaries to Panama, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Apartado E, Balboa, Republica de Panama). He was born in White Bluff, Miss. The former Dorothy Smith, she was born in Memphis. They were appointed in 1957.

Public relations firm will help publishers fight porn report

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — A leading Washington D.C. public relations firm has been retained to orchestrate criticism of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, to portray pornography foes as "religious extremists," and to influence government decision-making through a staff of former government employees, including a former top aide to House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill.

Gray and Company, the largest public affairs firm in Washington D.C., has been contacted by the Council for Periodical Distributors Associations (CPDA), to help discredit the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, and to build public support for sexually explicit magazines, according to private correspondence obtained by the National Federation for Decency (NFD).

The letters from Stephen M. Johnson, senior vice president of Gray and Company, to John Harrington, executive vice president of the CPDA.

Donald Wildmon, executive director of the NFD, says a group to focus criticism of the Commission has been formed. "Americans for Constitutional Freedoms" will be the public lobby for pornography, says Wildmon, and so far the group has raised \$600,000. It has been endorsed

by the National Coalition Against Censorship, a group which includes mainline Protestant denominations and the National Council of Churches, he said.

In the long run, Gray and Company will seek to help the "Media Coalition" find a way of "discrediting the organizations and individuals who have begun to seriously disrupt the legitimate business activities of publishers, distributors and sellers."

The letter adds, "Any long-term effort launched without such strategic positioning will fail because publishers, distributors and sellers will be thought to have no motive or justification other than economic self-interest, for their stance. Forced into a position of defending 'pornography,' they are certain to find themselves in a 'no-win' situation."

The campaign will attempt to portray pornography foes as "a group of religious extremists" who want to "impose their narrow moral and social agenda on the majority."

In the letter, Johnson notes that Gray and Company's government relations division is headed by Gary Hymel, former top aide to House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill.

Gallup identifies two religious trends

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (EP) — International pollster George Gallup Jr. has identified two religious trends in the world today — an intense search for spiritual depth in life and a search for meaningful relationships with other people, arising out of loneliness, broken families, and divorce.

Gallup said disenchantment with modern lifestyles and philosophies may be another factor in growing religious interest. "In considerable measure, this new search for spiritual depth and deeper relationships in life arises out of the failure of the 'isms' in recent years to give meaning to life and to provide an ideal by which to live — the 'isms' of materialism, secularism, agnosticism, and atheism," he said.

Small prayer and fellowship groups should be encouraged, said Gallup, because these groups will meet modern needs. "People who are reached for Jesus Christ should be en-

couraged to join a Bible study group or a small fellowship group to nurture their new faith," he said. "There would appear to be today a growing trend toward these groups stemming from a search for relationships . . . religious bonding and the growth of small fellowship groups could be the most important trend of the next 50 years."

Gallup also called for Christians to "close ranks with our fellow Christians," the wide rift between liberal and conservative Christians is "one of the most worrisome developments in contemporary Christianity," he said.

"Probably the most solid ground for a coming together of the left and the right is, in the last analysis, in the importance both groups place on love of God and love of neighbor," Gallup concluded. "People in the two wings of Christianity may not always like each other, but they may be able to come together in a loving fellowship rooted in love of Christ."

Singles ministry at Calvary sponsors overnight retreat

The singles ministry at Calvary Church, Jackson, recently held an overnight retreat at Twin Lakes Conference Center near Florence with singles from as far away as the Gulf Coast and the Delta attending.

Mike Romeo of Gulfport, a singles counselor and speaker, was conference leader, speaking on such

topics as "Realizing One Unlimited Possibilities."

Fellowship among the group was heightened, according to Dee Solomon, minister to singles, and Rene Hilton, singles department director, by a mock "Miss America Pageant," with entries by the males.

Harmon resigns from HMB

ATLANTA (BP) — Richard W. Harmon, associate director of the interfaith witness department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, resigned Sept. 15, saying his resignation "is best for all persons concerned."

"I've come to the conclusion that I can no longer function well within the climate that I perceive enveloping the Home Mission Board," said Harmon in his letter of resignation.

Harmon, who specializes in helping Southern Baptists better understand other denominations and Christian

groups, has been on the board staff since 1981, having previously been an editor and curriculum development coordinator at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn.

He did not announce any immediate plans.

Harmon said his resignation is "a personal decision I have reached on my own. I want to make it clear that I was not asked to resign. I believe this is best for all persons concerned. For me it is a matter of personal integrity."

Southwestern Seminary gets record \$2.47 million gift

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Southwestern Seminary here received its largest single cash gift — \$2.47 million — Aug. 4.

The gift is partial distribution of the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Carl McEachern of Austin.

The McEacherns' interest in

Southwestern primarily was motivated by Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church in Austin, and a Southwestern graduate. Four years ago, Smith had invited John Seelig, vice president for public affairs, to visit the McEacherns in an Austin nursing home.

Revival Dates

Cornersville (Union County): Oct. 6-10; 7:30 p.m.; Jimmy Russell, pastor, Friendship (Pontotoc), evangelist; Philip Cooper, pastor.

Chunky, Chunky: Oct. 5-10; 7 p.m., Sun.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; James Lewis, associate pastor, Tate St., Corinth, preaching: Brad Jones,

music; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Second, Indianola: Oct. 5-8; services, 12 noon, 7 p.m.; sandwiches provided at noon; Jim Bain, pastor, Istrouma, Baton Rouge, La.; Bobby Whittington, First, Indianola, music; Billy Beckett, pastor.

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Staff Changes

Harry N. Tillery recently went to Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian as minister of music. Before going to Poplar Springs Drive he served at First Church, Marks, for six years. Tillery has a degree from University of Southern Mississippi, a master of music degree from Mississippi College and has attended New Orleans Seminary.

He and his wife, Joyce, have two sons, Lee 13 and Joel 9.

Eddie Pilgrim has accepted the call to pastor Pearl Hill Church, Leake Association. He goes from Mountain Creek Church, Rankin Association. Pilgrim and his wife, Terry, have three children, Trenton, Jeremy, and Daniel.

James D. McLemore, who was pastor of Salem Church, Collins, is now working with the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. McLemore is editor of adult Bible book series materials.

Hollis Nix is interim pastor at Salem Church.

Mark Nicholson has resigned as minister of youth at Bayou View Church, Gulf Coast, to accept a call to First Church, Bradenton, Fla.

Bill Jenkins has accepted the call of Bay Vista Church, Biloxi. Jenkins and his wife, Jo Marie, both natives of Yazoo City, moved to Biloxi from Cleveland, where he served as pastor of Yale Street Church for three years.

Jenkins received his bachelor of science degree in education from Delta State University, his master of divinity from Southern Seminary, and his doctor of ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga.

Tommy Martin has been called as pastor of the Peace Of Christ Baptist Chapel in Bloomsburg, Pa. He has served as associate pastor of Southern Hills Church in Jackson since 1985. Martin, 26, is a graduate of Blue Mountain College, and New Orleans Seminary. He will begin his ministry in Bloomsburg, Sept. 28.

Terry Cain has accepted the position of minister of music/youth at Morgantown Church, Natchez. He is a native of Eupora, a graduate of Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. He goes to Morgantown from Seminary Church, Seminary, where he served in a similar position.

Tommy Miles has resigned as pastor of Rock Bluff Church, Morton. He has pastored Rock Bluff for seven



years. His former pastorates were Clifton Church, Forest, and East Morton Church, migrant mission program. Morton. Miles may be contacted for preaching engagements at 732-6769, office, day; 732-6269, or home, nights; or write P. O. Box 339, Morton, MS 39117.

Academy Church, Blue Mountain, has called William Michael (Mike) Bridges as its new pastor. He received his master of divinity degree at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest. He is former pastor of Elm Street Church, Petersburg, Va. He and his wife, Debbie, are natives of Tippah County. They have two sons, Doug and Dennis.

Frank Breshears is interim pastor of Faith Obedience Church, Gulf Coast. He is a member of Christ Temple Church, Moss Point.

Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport, has employed Mrs. Lorraine Darst as pastor's and finance secretary. She lives in Biloxi.

Bay Vista, Biloxi, called David L. Sumrall, effective Sept. 15, as associate pastor responsible for youth and outreach. Sumrall was pastor at Forrest Avenue Church, Biloxi for two years until its merger in June with Trinity Church. He has now completed three months at Trinity as associate pastor, assisting in the transition.

Sumrall graduated from Mercer University, Macon, Ga., Summa Cum Laude. He received his masters from New Orleans Seminary, where he is enrolled in the doctor of theology program.

Sumrall and his wife, the former Dottie Cline, have one son, Matthew David, 6 months old.

Charles King, pastor of Spring Hill Church (Copiah) has resigned effective Oct. 1. He and his wife, Merle, and son, Mark, have moved back to Jackson.

During his three year ministry, the church built a parsonage and did repairs on the church building and parking lot.

He will be available for supply, interim, or revivals, and can be contacted at 1553 David Dr., Jackson, MS 39209 or P. O. Box 818, Wesson, MS 39191. Phone 922-2811 or 894-1513.

Ed Jelks of Louisiana is interim pastor at Calvary Church, Gloster, Mississippi Association. Jelks is an employee of the Home Mission Board. A few years ago he was pastor of the Ebenezer Church, Mississippi Association.

Kelly A. Travis, has accepted the call as pastor of Clear Creek Church, Marion County.

Bay Vista Church, Gulf Coast, has called David Sumrall as associate pastor with responsibilities in youth and outreach.

Aaron Foy is interim pastor of Faithview Church, Gulf Coast.

No increase is set for church insurance rates

DALLAS — There will be no rate increase and a new medical benefit for infant hospital care will be added in 1987 for Southern Baptist ministers and church employees participating in the Annuity Board's Church Insurance Program.

Effective Jan. 1, 1987, nursery care of newborn infants will be a covered expense.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the "Well Baby Care" benefit will save some 3,000 families

several hundred dollars each in hospital expenses.

Despite the fact medical costs have risen by 7.5 percent last year, Morgan said the board has had no increase in medical insurance rates over the last two years.

Southern Baptist church ministers and employees may call their annuity representative or call the toll free number, 1-800-262-0511, for information on enrolling in the Church Insurance Program.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Oct. 7 Mississippi ACTS/BTN Teleconference; All churches with BTN; 7:30-8:30 p.m. (DBS)
- Oct. 9 New Staff Orientation and Directors of Missions Meeting; Baptist Building; 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (MBCB/PD)
- Oct. 11 Small Church Leadership Conference; 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (PD)

Homecomings

Bay Vista, Biloxi: 25th anniversary homecoming, and beginning of revival; Oct. 5; Sunday, 9:45 Bible Study; 11 a.m. worship; dinner on the grounds; afternoon anniversary celebration; no 8:30 a.m. worship Sunday or Training Union; nightly revival services, Sun.-Wed. Oct. 5-8, 7 p.m.; evangelist, former pastor Allen Stephens of First Church, Jacksonville Fla.; music, Bill Wade, former minister of music, now at First, Silverhill, Ala.; pianist, Kitty Deal; pastor, Billy Jenkins.

Weathersby (Simpson): Oct. 5; T. C. Pinson, former pastor, speaker; Foy Killingsworth, pastor; 11 a.m. service; dinner on ground; gospel singing in afternoon.

Providence (Lebanon): Oct. 5; 11 a.m.; Joel Richardson, speaker; dinner on the ground; Larry Gafford, pastor.

Lakeview, Leland: Oct. 5; James M. McIntosh, Jr., pastor, Peterman, Ala., preaching; lunch with afternoon singing at 2 p.m.

Antioch, (Neshoba): Oct. 5; Danny Lanier, morning message; Jim Hill family, Quitman; Lanier and Wesley Enfinger, pastor, in charge of afternoon service.

Glading (Amite): Oct. 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; preaching, 11; dinner on the ground; Charles Kirkfield, pastor.

New Good Hope, Pulaski: Oct. 12; 11 a.m.; dinner following services and song services to follow.

Colonial Heights hosts Right to Life Convention

Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will host the Mississippi Right to Life Convention, Oct. 24-25.

Among the speakers will be Paul Jones, director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, speaking on "The Church's Responsibility," and Colonial Heights pastor Gerald Harris speaking at a Saturday morning prayer breakfast for pastors.

Paul Truitt Church, Pearl observes its 40th birthday, Oct. 5; Clyde Jones first pastor, speaker, morning service, 10:30; lunch served 12:00 to 1:15 with a service and fellowship to follow.

Shiloh (Marion): Oct. 5; Floyd Beeson, former pastor, speaker for morning service, 11; covered dish luncheon and gospel sing will follow; The Johnstons will perform, along with other groups.

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SP-86

Names in the News

HATTIESBURG — Two William Carey College graduates have received awards this fall at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Raymond Jeffcoat, a May 1984 Carey graduate from Poplarville, was presented with the Mae Hammer Home Mission Scholarship. Presented to a home missions volunteer, this award is named after the mother of Don E. Hammer. Hammer is the director for theological field education.

Kevin Meisner, a Lakeland, Fla. native and May 1986 Carey graduate, was one of five incoming students to receive the Irys Jean Harris Scholarship of \$1,000. The award was presented to college graduates with outstanding academic records.

CLEVELAND, Ga. (BP — H. M. Fulbright has been elected president of Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., a two-year Georgia Baptist school. Fulbright is executive director of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders and has been involved with education in Georgia for 37 years.

Fulbright and his wife, Norma, have two children and one granddaughter.



Brewer



Parrish

Meadowview Church, Starkville, licensed Leroy J. Brewer Jr., and Robert Parrish to the ministry.

Brewer's father, L. J. Brewer, pastor, presented the certificates. He and his wife, Sharon, have three children, Lee and Valerie, five, and Samuel Nathan, two.

Parrish and his wife, Debbie, have two children, Robert, 14, and Magan, nine.

Both Brewer and Parrish are attending New Orleans Seminary and available to preach. Brewer can be contacted at 4441A Iroquois, New Orleans, LA 70126, phone (504) 288-5324. Parrish can be contacted at 4441C Iroquois, New Orleans, LA 70126 or phone (504) 283-8167.

D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Tex., has been named director of the Texas State Missions Commission. He replaces Charles McLaughlin who is retiring.

Felix (Marty) Wilson, a member of Timberlawn Church, Jackson, has surrendered to the ministry and is available for revivals, supply and/or pastorate. He can be reached by writing to him at 562 Spryfield Rd., Jackson, MS 39212. Phone 372-3615. Work phone 987-1110.

Paul Southerland was ordained to the ministry, Aug. 31, at Red Lick Church, Lorman. He is available to preach and can be contacted at Rt. 1, Lorman, Miss. 39096. Phone 437-3628. Marlon Seane is pastor.

Revival Results

Concord, Dry Creek, Booneville: Sept. 7-12; Bill Baker, West Ripley, evangelist; Deborah Thomas, Ecrú, music; 10 professions of faith, two by transfer of letter; Bill Dowdy, pastor.

ACTS

SATELLITE NETWORK, INC.

EDT	CDT	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	MDT	PDT
6:00	5:00	Country Crossroads	Plant Groom	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Lifestyle	Our World	4:00	3:00
6:30	5:30		Super Handyman	At Home With Bible	Word of Life	Human Dimension	Joy of Music	Prime Timers	4:30	3:30
7:00	6:00	Changed Lives			COPE			La Vida Hoy	5:00	4:00
7:30	6:30	One In The Spirit							5:30	4:30
8:00	7:00	Catch the Spirit	Westbrook Hospital	Westbrook Hospital	Public Defender	Westbrook Hospital	26 Men	Profiles	6:00	5:00
8:30	7:30	This Is The Life			Sunshine Factory			Imagine That	6:30	5:30
9:00	8:00	Christopher Closeup			Gigglesnort Hotel			Moody Science	7:00	6:00
9:30	8:30	Bobby Jones Show			Cisco Kid			Sun School Lesson	7:30	6:30
10:00	9:00	In Touch			Encore Theatre			Bill Cosby Show	8:00	7:00
10:30	9:30							Country Crossroads	8:30	7:30
11:00	10:00	Joy of Music							9:00	8:00
11:30	10:30	Home With The Bible	Life Today	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Lifestyle	In Concert	9:30	8:30
Noon	11:00	Human Dimension							10:00	9:00
12:30	11:30	Profiles	Prime Timers	At Home With Bible	Word of Life	Human Dimension	Joy of Music	Family Foundations	10:30	9:30
1:00	Noon	Baptist Hour			Sunshine Factory			David Wade	11:00	10:00
1:30	12:30				Gigglesnort Hotel			Plant Groom	11:30	10:30
2:00	1:00	Prime Timers			Cisco Kid			Super Handyman	Noon	11:00
2:30	1:30	The Sunday Selection			Psychiatry and You			Sportsight	12:30	11:30
3:00	2:00				COPE			Jimmy Houston	1:00	Noon
3:30	2:30							Our World	1:30	12:30
4:00	3:00	In Touch			Encore Theatre			Imagine That	2:00	1:00
5:00	3:30	Joy of Music						Moody Science	2:30	1:30
5:30	4:30	Home With The Bible			Sunshine Factory			Sun School Lesson	3:00	2:00
6:00	5:00	Human Dimension			Gigglesnort Hotel			David Wade	3:30	2:30
6:30	5:30	Profiles			Cisco Kid			Plant Groom	4:00	3:00
7:00	6:00	This Is The Life	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Super Handyman	4:30	3:30
7:30	6:30	Christopher Closeup						Bill Cosby Show	5:00	4:00
8:00	7:00	Bobby Jones Show	Home With The Bible	Word of Life	Human Dimension	Joy of Music	Prime Timers	Country Crossroads	5:30	4:30
8:30	7:30	Changed Lives	David Wade	Plant Groom	Super Handyman	East Healthy	Success	In Concert	6:00	5:00
9:00	8:00	One In The Spirit	Country Crossroads	Great Churches	In Concert	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads		7:00	6:00
9:30	8:30	Catch the Spirit			COPE			Family Foundations	7:30	6:30
10:00	9:00	The Sunday Selection						La Vida Hoy	8:00	7:00
10:30	9:30								8:30	7:30
11:00	10:00		Westbrook Hospital	Public Defender	Westbrook Hospital	Twenty Six Men	Westbrook Hospital	Profiles	9:00	8:00
11:30	10:30	Baptist Hour	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	This Is The Life	9:30	8:30
12:30	11:30	Prime Timers	Home With The Bible	Word of Life	Human Dimension	Joy of Music	Prime Timers	Christopher Closeup	10:00	9:00
1:00	Midnight	Changed Lives	David Wade	Plant Groom	Super Handyman	East Healthy	Success	Bobby Jones Show	10:30	9:30
1:30	12:30	One In The Spirit	Country Crossroads	Great Churches	In Concert	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	In Concert	11:00	10:00
2:00	1:00	Catch the Spirit			COPE			Family Foundations	11:30	10:30
2:30	1:30	This Is The Life						Sportsight	12:30	11:30
3:00	2:00	Christopher Closeup						Jimmy Houston	1:00	Midnight
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4:00	3:00	Baptist Hour			Encore Theatre			La Vida Hoy	2:00	1:00
4:30	3:30								2:30	1:30
5:00	4:00	Prime Timers						Profiles	3:00	2:00
5:30	4:30	David Wade	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Lifestyle	Life Today	Bill Cosby Show	3:30	2:30

Suicide prevented by ACTS TV show

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — With tears in his eyes, Jimmy R. Allen introduced Stephanie to trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission during their September meeting.

"One of the joys of ministering in radio and television is the joy of the end product," said Allan, commission president. "It is the joy of what God is doing in people's lives."

In a soft, low voice Stephanie told trustees of her encounter with God through ACTS: "Two months ago, I was suicidal. I had already tried (to commit suicide) and I figured the third time it would work."

She related how she had been working with severely and profoundly retarded children but was off work because of an injured back. "I wasn't working, and my work was my life, so I just thought, 'There's no reason to live.'"

"I had the pills in my hand and I decided that I would turn on the TV and watch music or something," she said, explaining that in Fort Worth,

the computerized cable system usually comes on at Channel 6, the weather channel.

"But this time, it came on at ACTS (Channel 47). They were showing 'The Word of Life' with Joel Gregory preaching, and he was talking about suicide and how your life is worth something. It really touched me. I took those pills and right then flushed them all down the commode. Then I came back and sat down. I must have cried for hours," Stephanie said.

The following Sunday, she went to Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where Gregory is pastor. There, she made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and was baptized into the fellowship of the church.

Soon, Stephanie showed up at the RTVC offices in Fort Worth and volunteered her services.

"They gave me back my life and my self worth," she said. "I wasn't doing anything and I decided to come as a volunteer for ACTS."

Robbers take \$5,000 from missionaries

OWERRI, Nigeria (BP) — About \$5,000 was taken from Southern Baptist missionaries Urban and Loretta Green in a robbery reported earlier this month.

The loss is among additional details that John Mills, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for West Africa, has learned of the incident in which the veteran missionaries from Tulsa, Okla., were tied, beaten, and robbed in their home in the rural Nigerian town of Owerri.

The missionaries lost \$1,000 in personal money, mostly in U.S. travelers checks. They were able to notify authorities in time to stop payment on the checks.

However, robbers took about \$4,000 in local currency that belonged to the local organization of missionaries and this probably will not be recovered, Mills said. He did not know if the robbers were armed. The Greens had only minor injuries and were not hospitalized. Local police reportedly were working on the case.

Nobel Prize winner to speak in Clinton

Melvin Calvin, a Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and currently University Professor of Chemistry at the University of California in Berkeley, will be the guest lecturer at Mississippi College Oct. 6-7 for the Archie H. Germany Science and Mathematics Forum.

Supported by a GTE Foundation lectureship Grant, the Forum topic for this year will be "Renewable Fuels for the Future."

Calvin will meet with various faculty and student groups during the morning and afternoon on Monday, Oct. 6, with a public session set for 7 p.m. in Self Hall, Room 210, where he will speak on "Energy Agriculture."

Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 100 of Hederman Hall, the guest lecturer will speak on "Artificial Photosynthesis." This session is also open to the general public.

Late check keeps CP 7th on all-time list

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A late check held Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program receipts for August at seventh on the all-time monthly list, almost \$1 million behind what it might have been.

August receipts for the convention's voluntary unified missions, education, and ministries budget were \$10,256,116.

Contributions from one state Baptist convention — \$915,403 — were sent to the Executive Committee's former address, returned to the sender, and failed to arrive at the Executive Committee by Aug. 31, said Tim Hedquist, the committee's vice president for business and finance. Hedquist declined to name the state convention.

If the check had arrived on time, the August total would have been \$11,171,519, making it the third-highest monthly Cooperative Program total and 2.38 percent ahead of the same period last year.



Intensive care

Drugs are just as deadly as a loaded gun. Don't take chances with your life

Compulsive behavior of the chemically dependent

Dr. Geary Alford, consulting psychologist at Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center, responds to questions about compulsive behavior.

Would you explain the compulsion that chemically dependent people have?

This compulsion involves three interrelated components. The first component is the physical dependence that most drugs of abuse produce. Once the addictive process develops, the individual then uses the drug, in part, to reduce or avoid withdrawal symptoms. These may range from mild tremors, tension, stress, pain, or anxiety to profound suicidal depression or convulsions. Even when clear-cut physical addiction is not present, the body is still accustomed to the physical state of intoxication. Secondly, the psychological sensations and state-of-mind of drug intoxication

become the user's "normal" psychological state. Thus, at that point, the dependent person feels a need to use the drug to feel "okay" or "normal." Thirdly, the use of the drug becomes a highly ingrained, habitual part of the user's usual and basic behavior pattern. Without the routine of taking the drug, the person does not feel physically or psychologically "normal." At this point in abuse/dependency, chemical use is as much a psychological attempt to feel "normal" as to "get high." This biopsychological drive to continue using is the core of the compulsion.

Questions addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with Dr. Ed Burchak of the staff of the Chemical Dependency Center. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Bill targets child pornography

WASHINGTON (BP) — Pornography opponents hope legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate will put a dent in America's growing child pornography industry.

A bill introduced by Sen. William Roth, R-Del., would broaden legal efforts to control sexual exploitation of children and advertising of child pornography. The bill, S. 2398, has 13 cosponsors from both major parties and the endorsement of the Reagan administration.

Supporters of the legislation believe the bill will close some legal loopholes which now make possible the operation of networks of pedophiles — adults who engage in sexual activity with children.

One proposal in the bill would pro-

hibit advertising of child pornography and solicitation of children for sexual purposes.

No help from . . .

(Continued from page 8)

intentioned, but they are opening a Pandora's box which we ought to keep closed.

Robert L. Maddox
Americans United for
Separation of Church and State
8120 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, MD

I agree, and my point is that we don't need evolution taught either. — Editor

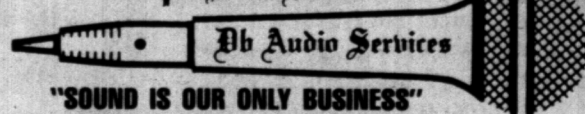
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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Celebrating justice: God saw need for new beginning

By Robert E. Self
Leviticus 25

Louisa Fletcher correctly pointed to the often felt but seldom spoken need of most of us when she wrote,



Self

"I wish that there were some wonderful place called the Land of Beginning Again, where all our mistakes and all our heartache and all our poor selfish grief could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door and never be put on again."

The possibility of starting again must rest upon some God conceived idea that celebrates the dignity and worth of each person. Micah hints at that idea when he writes, "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (6:8). God foresaw the need for a new beginning and the elaborate plan of the ages that peaked at the cross became the plan that emphasizes the possibility.

I. Jubilee (25:8-12)

The elaborate plan in ancient Judaism consisted of the fiftieth year being special. The Israelites were to observe a year of rest each seventh year and with each "seven Sabbaths of

year," they were to observe the special year of jubilee, a time of jubilation.

The jubilee year was to be heralded by the sounding of the trumpet on the Day of Atonement. The latter was the special day of sacrifice for the sins of the people. It was to be a special day of sins being forgiven and of starting again.

The two basic ideas that were to be proclaimed were freedom and rest. The Israelite was to be free and to return to his family property. This helped the people to recognize God as the true owner of the property and to see themselves as his stewards. All the economic hardships of the past were overcome in the Jubilee. As the Israelite thought on the permanence of God's ownership, he was encouraged to become a better steward of his life and his possessions.

That freedom extended to the point of the prohibition by God of one of his people enslaving another. The specific provision allowed for the man in debt to work as a hired worker for the person to whom he was indebted, and to be treated as a temporary resident there. He was allowed to retain his dignity in a different situation.

UNIFORM

The other idea of jubilee was rest. The people were to rest from the normal pursuits of life. We may assume that they spent the year with an increased emphasis upon their faith and their families. It was to be an elongated retreat that would improve their ability to live meaningfully in the year to come. They were to rest the land as well, refraining from sowing and reaping, their two main agricultural labors.

II. Redemption (25:25-27, 39-42)

Various hardships made it inevitable that property would change hands and that the inheritance of families would be placed in jeopardy. The people remembered that their land had come to them as a trust from God. To lose it was not only a matter of economic hardship but an affront to their faith. The land held a very special place to them and it brought great pain when they lost it.

Several years ago, the land that my grandfather lived and died on was sold outside the family. I remembered with great hurt those years I spent walking those fields and pastures, growing cows and watermelons, robbing wasp nests for fishing or sitting at his feet learning of the distant past. In his simple but profound way he taught me so much about life, about snuff on bee stings and a coal oil rag on a sore toe. The thing he taught me best was that the land was a sacred trust from God, and to be

close to the land was to be close somehow to him. I understand that, and it has sometimes brought out the pain of my heart.

God provided through the practice of jubilee for the redemption of the land and the renewal of the trust. The law clearly set forth the manner in which the land was to be redeemed, either by the person himself or by his nearest relative.

Conclusion:

Since God ultimately owns everything, we are encouraged to see ourselves as stewards who must deal in justice and generosity. Christians cannot justify taking advantage of others in a hurtful way just because the world applauds it as "good business practice." Someday we will understand that God judges us materially, not on the basis of accumulation but rather how we gave away. Only in that does the widow's mite make sense.

We cannot be good stewards of his things until we become good stewards of our own lives. Jesus provided the possibility of redemption at the cross and the stewardship of life begins there. The son of a preacher called late at night once to say, "Do you think Jesus will help me to start again?" The answer is obvious. Yes, Louisa Fletcher, there is indeed a "Land of Beginning Again."

Robert Self is pastor, First, Brookhaven.

God's good creation: "Why, not how, is important . . ."

By James W. Street
Genesis 1:1-25

"In the beginning God . . ." simple, direct, powerful words that sketch our genesis and the creative goodness of God. The how, the detailed descriptions are omitted



Street

and, some choose to major on inconsequential, unsolvable, never ending debates on the how. Not me! It is okay with me however God chose to create — by the snap of his fingers or the eons of gradual adaption and change. The ancient writer wasn't there to be an eye witness, he was simply, elegantly, reflecting on the why, not the how. The why is important to me.

I do not mean that the how is unimportant. Ever since January 7, 1610, in St. Mark's Square, Venice, Italy, the how has mesmerized

ed inquiring minds. Galileo with his newly invented telescope was corroborating the heliocentric concept of the universe as theorized by Copernicus. This new way of looking at our world scandalized the establishment which included the church.

Scientific findings always carry with them certain profound philosophic implications. My concept of the greatness and goodness of God and his created order has been enlarged vastly as my understanding grew. The writer of Genesis had no way of knowing that the moonlight takes only two seconds to reach earth, or that the sunlight reaches us in eight and one-third minutes. The reality was the same — just two different ways of describing God's good creation.

So acrimonious arguments over the how do not interest me. I am very pleased to know that God created and that what and how he created was pronounced a divine "good." Which leads me back to the why. Part of the why centers on

LIFE AND WORK

our thinking great thoughts of God. All of creation is designed to shape that vacuum in our breasts into a God-longing.

You see, the goodness of God's creation has as its ultimate purpose to hone into sharp actuality the kinship between the infinite creator of the universe and the human creatures he will bring into existence. This truth is verified by both revelation and science. As we explore this universe and beyond, we discover that it was conceived, created, and is now ordered by an infinite mind of which our finite minds are a miniature mold.

This good creation of God also reveals homo sapiens' kinship to him, just as our minds appear to be a reflection of our Creator's mind, so also our spirit is apparently akin to the spirit of God. Indeed, the one characteristic that unfailingly differentiates even the most primitive

ones in the human race from other members of the animal kingdom is our responsiveness to God.

Wherever traces of humankind have been found, even amongst the most degraded races, anthropologists have always discovered some evidences of religious practice. We Christians stand today confronting a world/universe vast beyond our imagination, yet we are neither baffled nor dismayed. We believe in a God who has revealed himself in the goodness, orderliness, and rationality of his creation. But, above all else, we believe in a God who has unveiled his character in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

"In the beginning God created . . ." "And God saw that the light was good." " . . . and God saw that it [earth, seas, vegetation, sun, moon, animal life] was good." It was all good because it was from God for us, so that eventually we might acknowledge him as father and creator.

James Street is pastor, First, Cleveland.

John bears witness of Jesus, the eternal Word

By Marjean Patterson
John 1:1-18

No greater words have ever been written, spoken or sung than those of the apostle John, "And the word was made flesh, and dwelt



Patterson

among us . . ." We may safely commit our present and our future to this divine One, who has no beginning and no ending.

I. The word's relationship to God (1:12)

John began his story of the life and word of Jesus with a deep theological statement which exceeds the understanding and grasp of finite minds. "In the beginning . . ." Jesus was there at the beginning of things; he was there before the Creation; he was not one of the created beings.

John's purpose in writing was to refute the Gnostic teaching which said that Jesus was a created being, the last in a long line of such beginnings.

John makes three claims for Jesus at the

outset of his book: he is eternal; he is equal with God; he is God.

II. The word's relationship to creation (1:3-5)

As the eternal God, Christ is the Creator. Apart from him, not one thing came into being. John also identified Jesus as the source of life. Life — which is the opposite of death — has a qualitative nature to it as well as a quantitative side. Life not only came into existence through Jesus; it also would have depth and meaning as a person related himself to the eternal Jesus.

Jesus is declared to be the "light of men." One of the oldest fears in the world is the fear of darkness. The illumination of the Savior pervades the darkness. Though the darkness of evil continues to pursue the light of life, the light has not been overtaken or extinguished.

The eternal light came clothed in the soft, sweet flesh of a Jewish baby — and that light was incapable of going out.

The themes of "life" and "light" stand tall and

sure throughout the entire book of John.

III. John's witness concerning the word (1:6-8)

The man who was sent from God to bear witness of the eternal Word was John the Baptist. For 400 years — since the time of Malachi — there had been no prophet of God in the land, no "voice crying in the wilderness."

John, whose name meant "Gift of God," burst upon the scene as the one who would prepare the way for the coming of Him who is God's greatest gift to the world.

The function of John was not to start a "John the Baptist party." Rather, he was born for the purpose of being an intermediary agent for God. He fulfilled this purpose as he preached with great power and conviction and pointed people to the Eternal One — the Word — the Savior of all mankind.

IV. The word in the world (1:9-14)

Jesus came as the trustworthy, true, real light. There was nothing counterfeit, or deceitful about him. As the true light, he was the only source of light to man. And in the coming of Jesus, in incarnate form, the true light was coming into the world. Not everyone would

welcome and receive the light but it would be available for people of all the ages.

As the apostle Paul portrayed Jesus as One who came "in the fulness of time," the Word became a real human being, though he was unrecognized by many. The tragedy of the situation was that he was not recognized by those who had been waiting for him. Those who should have greeted him with open arms rejected him and helped lead him to a cross.

V. The Word's revelation of God (1:15-18)

The first words attributed to John the Baptist were words of testimony concerning Jesus. Though Jesus was John's junior in age, Jesus exceeded John in rank. The eternal truth comes from John's mouth in his recognition that Jesus was before him because Jesus is eternal.

No one has seen God with his eyes. God is spirit. In Jesus, we see God living life as God himself would have lived it if God had been a man. In Jesus alone there is perfectly revealed to people all that God always was and always will be! Hallelujah!

Marjean Patterson is executive director, Mississippi WMU.

Baptist Record

Farm, petroleum crises crunch Baptist budgets

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Farm failures and plummeting petroleum prices have wreaked havoc on Baptist budgets this year.

An informal survey revealed most, if not all, of the 37 Southern Baptist state conventions are operating below their projected budgets. Although monthly receipts are running ahead of last year, they are not sufficient to sustain the depth and breadth of statewide ministries which leaders had hoped to conduct.

Observers from across the country have pointed to the American farm crisis as one reason for tight budgets in the state conventions. When farmers lose their crops to drought and their farms to the banks, entire communities suffer.

Ditto for the petrochemical industry. Everyone from independent drillers to multinational corporations have been ravaged by bottom-of-the-barrel oil prices. Without business from these industries, service industries also falter.

The strength of farming and petroleum production has been located where Baptists have been most numerous, primarily the South and Southwest. So when communities built around farming and/or petroleum suffer, their churches hurt. The chain reaction is direct. Residents of these communities have less to give to their churches, churches have less to pass along to state conventions, budgets are pared to bare essentials.

Executive directors of Baptist state conventions from across the country described their plights this summer:

The Baptist General Convention of Texas suffered a \$1 million shortfall in June, the worst monthly deficit since the Great Depression, reported William M. Pinson Jr. Although July receipts exceeded monthly budget requirements by \$16,319, or 0.3 percent, Texas Baptists still were more than \$400,000 below budget for the year.

Pinson cited the collapse of oil and gas prices and a general depression in agribusiness as the reason for Texas Baptists' financial troubles. The state convention staff is cutting its expenditures to match receipts he said.

Mississippi Baptists, \$633,247 behind after August, face a similar

problem, Earl Kelly said: "All of the economy seems to be dipping. We have farmers in the Delta who are in critical condition. But it's more than just the farm situation. Sections of the state that depend on oil are in disarray.

"Each year when we develop a budget, we develop it with the possibility this could happen, and we prioritize our goals," he added. "After the end of the first three months, we project what's happening and keep our expenditures in bounds with receipts. We cut out our dreaming and do our bread-and-butter program."

In Louisiana, another state with agriculture and petroleum ties, Baptists were almost \$820,000, or 8.47 percent, behind on their budget at the end of July. Robert L. Lee explained Louisiana's unemployment rate, one of the highest in the country and brought on by the petrochemical crisis, has been devastating.

"We are ahead of the budget last year, but we did not make our budget last year because the problem of the economy was coming on," Lee said. "We have made a serious effort to adjust each expense budget as much as we could without injuring the ongoing work. We have tapped to a substantial degree our contingent reserve monies, and we do not have fully ordered game plans if we find there is a further decline this year. We will order our programs according to our resources."

The situation is not as bad in states that are not dependent upon petrochemical revenue.

"We have had an extremely terrible drought. It has really taken its toll," said Ray P. Rust of South Carolina. "It's been uncomfortable, . . . and it's been tragic for a lot of people."

"But it is too early for us in the state convention office to ascertain how this has impacted world mission support through the Cooperative Program," Rust added. "That impact will be easier to ascertain in a matter of two to three months."

South Carolina Baptists' giving to the state convention is 4.9 percent ahead of last year, but it is about \$224,000 short of this year's basic budget, he reported, noting: "But that

doesn't represent a crisis. That's makeable as we look to the end of the year."

"At this point, it's critical," John P. Baker said of the financial situation in Northern Plains Baptist Convention, which includes Montana and the Dakotas. "At the middle of the year, our receipts were \$25,000 under our little budget. For us, this is a great amount." That amount is 7.4 percent of Northern Plains Baptists' contribution to their budget, which is supplemented by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The problem does not seem to be as great in states with more urban populations and/or diversified economies.

"With a population of over 11 million, we are not as affected (by the farm crisis) as other Southern states," said Dan C. Stringer of Florida. "We have a small rural population compared to our urban population. So for us, the farm situation is not the major problem."

Northern and western portions of Florida have suffered agricultural problems due to citrus crop freezes in recent years, "but statewide, the state is not as dependent upon agriculture as it would have been two or three decades ago," Stringer reported.

In California, the problem also has not been as drastic as in the South and Midwest, reported C. B. Hogue. "We don't have as many family farms as most of the Southern states," he explained, noting most of the state's huge fruit and vegetable farms are run by corporations.

"But when agriculture is affected in any way, the communities that service the agricultural industry are affected," he added, noting the state convention undoubtedly has been hit by problems in agriculture.

Across the Southern Baptist Convention, leaders are searching for optimism and trying to make progress.

"We're trying not to put a hold on new churches; new work is a priority with us," said Mississippi's Kelly. Added Baker of the Northern Plains: "We're doing like everybody else — tightening our belts and praying for rain."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

"Joy" is the word for VBS at Roseland Park Church

By Gene Smith
Pastor, Roseland Park Church

Joy Hill

Of times, Vacation Bible School falls short of achieving its high goals because of poor planning, shortage of volunteers and general disorganization. Staff members, pastors, VBS directors, and teachers all find the week to be an emotionally and physically draining experience when such is the case.

At Roseland Park Baptist Church in Picayune, we've come to the place where we regard VBS as one of the truly high points of the year. It is an effective ministry of the church which grows yearly, demanding even more personnel and budget considerations.

This summer we registered 486 for the week and saw an average daily attendance of over 400. For some larger churches, this number may be as expected, but at Roseland Park, it is an increase of about 50 percent over our total average Sunday School attendance. It outnumbered our children's Sunday School mark by 4 to 1.

There were 111 adult workers, and a much greater number of people in the church contributed by supplying cookies and Kool-Aid. Some of the workers were recruited outside of the church membership, and over half of the children were not members of a local Baptist church. Many were not attending a church anywhere.

As pastor, I know that I speak for the staff when I say that our tremendous success in VBS is due to one outstanding ingredient. That special ingredient is Joy. I'm not talking about euphoric gladness of heart, but

Off the Record

For years the side-show strongman had awed crowds by squeezing a lemon dry, then offering \$1,000 to anybody in the audience who could get another drop out of it. Nobody paid much attention when a wispy little man in one audience dared challenge the strongman.

The strongman first squeezed the lemon until it was little more than a pulp, then handed it to his frail challenger. The little man not only squeezed out another drop — but got almost a saucerful of juice.

"Amazing!" the strongman conceded. "What kind of work do you do?" "I'm with the Internal Revenue Service," the little man replied. — White Rose Motorist

about Joy Hill, our VBS director. For four years, under her guidance and leadership, the school has grown in organization and exuberance to its current statistical mark.

Preparation for VBS is begun at Roseland Park as soon as the new year begins. In early January, Joy is at work with Danny de Armas the minister of education ordering literature, making reservations for recreational equipment, and recruiting teachers.

There follows a series of organizational meetings where Joy briefs workers on literature, scheduling, and philosophy. At least one of these meetings is a day long training session with a covered dish meal and time of fellowship included. In addition, Joy meets with each staff member to recruit them for their special functions.

It all adds up to a sum of being a very joyous week with teachers readily volunteering for next year's tour of duty.

We were all thrilled at the decision time at the end of the week this summer when, after hearing the plan of salvation presented, 54 children made decisions to ask Christ into their hearts.

We call Joy the person to whom it is impossible to say no. Her effervescence and dedication are contagious and the people she contacts for service find themselves saying yes without the usual dread of the ordeal.

I should mention that Joy also serves with her husband, Chuck, as a regular weekly worker in Sunday School while managing to raise their own children in the process.

Perhaps the greatest accolade, though, to the efforts of the VBS team and to Joy was offered by one of the children in our neighborhood. Peter is not a member of our church, but he was nonetheless enjoying his "home for a week" and walked over to the preacher's house to tell him so. When asked how he felt about Bible School he responded, "There's just one thing about it that I don't like — it doesn't last all year."

Book Reviews

Koons, Carolyn, *Beyond Betrayal: Healing My Broken Past*; Harper and Row, San Francisco, 275 pp.

I couldn't just skim through "Beyond Betrayal," though that's always possible when a person just

wants to get the highlights of a book. This one is well written with high drama throughout — a true story of a woman's fight for self esteem in a life that seemed to offer no hope and no love. She found that hope and love through a loving church group and she

found that the love of God can heal the wounds of the past completely. The book held my attention with the threat of her father's murdering her hanging over her and the reader's head almost to the last line. (reviewed by Tim Nicholas)

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